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IZAAKSE
LAISO
MENYZ
TROY
"The best super-hero team in Marvel."
– Black Nerd Problems
BECAUSE THE WORLD STILL NEEDS HEROES!
CHAMPIONS
NORTHERN LIGHTS
MARVEL

NORTHERN LIGHTS

When society became disillusioned with its heroes,
the next generation made a vow to do better.
To make a difference. To change the world. They are the...

CHAMPIONS

NORTHERN LIGHTS

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COSETTI
BONVILLAIN

NUNAVUT, NORTHERN CANADA.
16 MILES NORTH OF PANGNIRTUNG.
AMKA, THIS IS CRAZY...
YOU KEEP SAYING THAT, PILIP, BUT YOU'RE STILL HERE.
WE DON'T EVEN KNOW WHO SET THIS PLACE UP OR WHAT THEY'RE DOING.
EXACTLY! THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO INVESTIGATE.
IN SECRET. AT NIGHT.
YES AND YES.
NO ONE IN TOWN KNEW THIS PLACE WAS GOING UP. NO ONE APPROVED IT.
A WEEK AGO IT WAS JUST A GLACIER. NOW IT'S A SECRET.
THERE'S PROBABLY A REASONABLE EXPLANATION.
COULD BE... I'M GONNA FIND OUT.
PLEASE BE CAREFUL.
ALWAYS.

WATCH THE--
I AM.
WHOOP--!
AMKA!
FOOF
I'M OKAY!
IT'S ALL PART OF THE PLAN...
SIGH
WAIT FOR ME!
NO. STAY THERE. KEEP A LOOKOUT.
I'LL TAKE SOME QUICK PHOTOS AND THEN COME RIGHT BACK...

HOW'D THEY BUILD ALL THIS SO FAST?
VWEE VWEE VW
VWEE VWEE VWEE VWEE VWE
MAINTAIN PERIMETER SECURITY.
VWEE VWEE VWEE VWEE
OH MY GOD...

<CHILD OF THE NORTH, CAN YOU HELP ME?>*
Marvel presents
a new era of THE CHAMPIONS in
NORTHERN LIGHTS
Part 1
*TRANSLATED FROM INUKTITUT.

THE NEXT MORNING.
NEW YORK CITY.
STAY BACK, HELMET-HEAD!
VAAAM VAAAM VAAAM
THE NAME'S NOVA! PEOPLE CALL ME THE HUMAN ROCKET FOR A REASON, YOU KNOW...
WING POWER IS NOT GONNA CUT IT, FLY!
SPEED ISN'T EVERYTHING, KID...
AW, GEEZ--
BRAKE-BRAKE-BRAKE!
WHUMP
NUUUH--

I'VE NEVER SEEN A ROCKET GO "SMOOSH" BEFORE!
HAHAHAHA!
YOU SAID IT, FLY! THESE SUPER TYKES ARE GETTIN' LAMER ALL THE TIME...
SURPRISE, BUG-EYES!
HEY!
KA-THOK
KO
GLUUUR--
THWIP
WHAT DO YOU THINK YOU'RE--
JUST DOIN' WHATEVER A SPIDER CAN, LADY.
DON'T BLAME ME, IT'S THE THEME SONG...

BZZT-BZZT
BZZT-BZZT
OH!
IMPORTANT CHAMPIONS CALL! I BETTER TAKE THIS...
AHHHHHHH!
HEY, MS. MARVEL. WHAT'S UP?
I KNOW! IT'S BEEN A WHILE...
OKAY! NOVA AND I WILL BE THERE.
WITH SNACKS...
WITH SNACKS!
48 MINUTES LATER.
ARE YOU PREPARED FOR UNPREPARED-NESS?
WHAT DOES THAT MEAN, EXACTLY, VIV?
WHILE YOU TWO HAVE BEEN OFF DOING YOUR OWN THING, WE'VE BEEN WORKING ON A SURPRISE!
MY SPIDER-SENSE ISN'T TINGLING SO I'M ASSUMING IT'S SAFE...
WASP, CUE THE DRUMROLL...
BIDDA BIDDABIDDABIDDA BIDDA--
--TA-DA!
oh, wow--

THIS IS OUR NEW BASE, THE CHAMPIONS MOBILE BUNKER!

IT'S A TRANSPORT/ CLUBHOUSE/RESCUE VEHICLE, BUILT SO WE CAN GO WHEREVER WE'RE NEEDED AND SAVE PEOPLE ALL OVER THE WORLD!

HOW? WHO? WHEN?!

THE C.M.B. WAS DESIGNED BY AMADEUS, NADIA AND RIRI. I CONSULTED ON TECHNICAL SPECIFICATIONS AND HELPED PROCURE BUILDING SUPPLIES WITH HELP FROM MY FATHER.

CONSTRUCTION WAS UNDERTAKEN OVER THE PAST THREE WEEKS IN SECRET BETWEEN OTHER SCHEDULED TASKS.

THIS IS NUTS...

I KNOW, RIGHT?!

WHEN IRONHEART BROUGHT ME THE PLANS, IT BLEW MY MIND.

SPEAKING OF RIRI, WHERE IS SHE?

INSIDE... DUDE, SHE CAN'T STOP TINKERING WITH IT... TOTALLY OCD. IT'S KIND OF DRIVING ME CRAZY.

SHE'S PROBABLY JUST BEING SHY, HULK. I'LL GO GET HER.

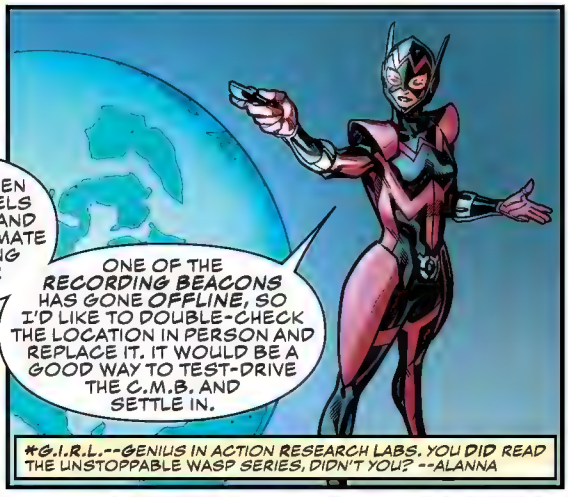
GOOD LUCK!

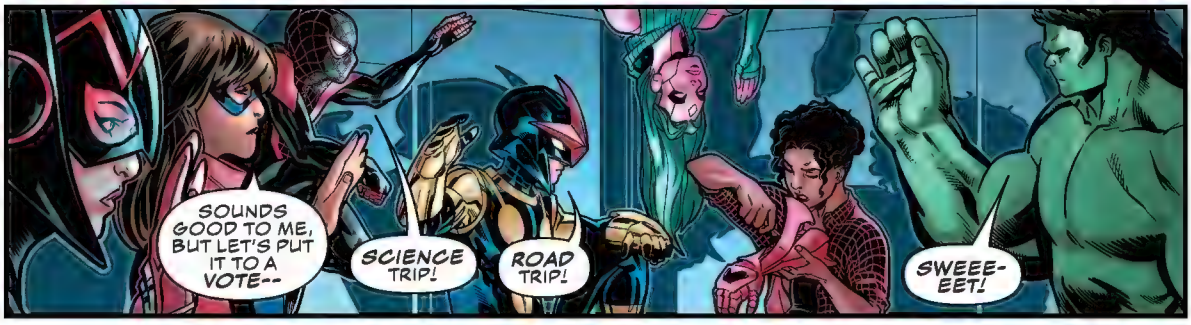
RIRI?
MM-HMM?
WE...WE WERE SHOWING THE BUNKER TO NOVA AND SPIDEY. YOU MISSED IT.
'KAY...
LOOK, I KNOW YOU WANT IT TO BE PERFECT AND--
HAND ME THE NEEDLE-NOSE PLIERS, WILL YOU?
OH! SURE...
WE APPRECIATE ALL THE WORK YOU'VE DONE, BUT YOU DON'T HAVE TO DO ALL THIS TO IMPRESS US. WE JUST--
KRIKKA KRIKKA KRIKKA
WE, UH--
BANG BANG BANG
ARE... ARE YOU EVEN LISTENING TO ME?
THAT SHOULD FIX THE HEAT SINK PROBLEM!
...COOL.
EXACTLY! IT'LL RUN MUCH COOLER NOW.
SHE'S IN HER ELEMENT, SO I'LL JUST LEAVE HER TO IT.
TOLD YA...

WATCH YOUR STEP. I KNOW IT'S CRAMPED, BUT WE HAD TO ECONOMIZE SPACE.
IT'S LIKE A SUPER-SUBMARINE.
YEAH...
THIS IS MS. MARVEL'S ROOM.
AMADEUS.
VIV.
MY ROOM.
RIRI'S.
KEEP OUT!
AND A SHARED ROOM FOR YOU TWO.
"SHARED"?
GOTCHA.
AMADEUS' ORIGINAL PLANS DIDN'T INCLUDE A RESTROOM. I DID NOT MIND, BUT THE OTHERS FELT IT WAS IMPORTANT.
TOP BUNK!
BOO...

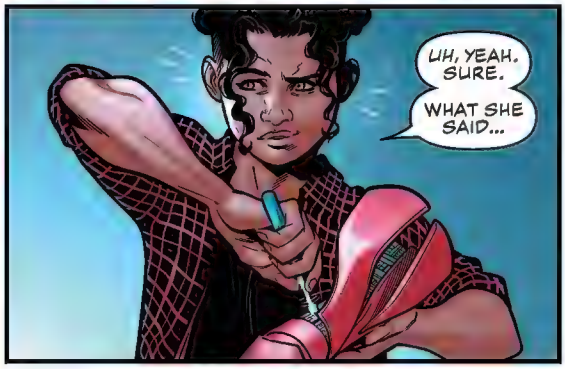
HERE'S WHERE IT ALL COMES TOGETHER-- OUR CHAMPIONS COMMAND CENTER.
VIV AND NADIA HAVE PLUGGED INTO NEWSFEEDS AND SATELLITE READINGS TO MONITOR ACTIVITIES HAPPENING ALL OVER THE WORLD SO WE CAN PRIORITIZE EMERGENCIES AND WORK WITH RELIEF AGENCIES.

WE ALWAYS SAID THE CHAMPIONS WERE GLOBAL, AND NOW WE'RE GONNA PROVE IT!
WE JUST NEED TO FIGURE OUT WHERE TO START...
THE G.I.R.L. GANG* AND I HAVE BEEN MONITORING ICE LEVELS IN THE ARCTIC TO TRY AND UNDERSTAND HOW CLIMATE CHANGE IS AFFECTING EXTREME WEATHER PATTERNS.

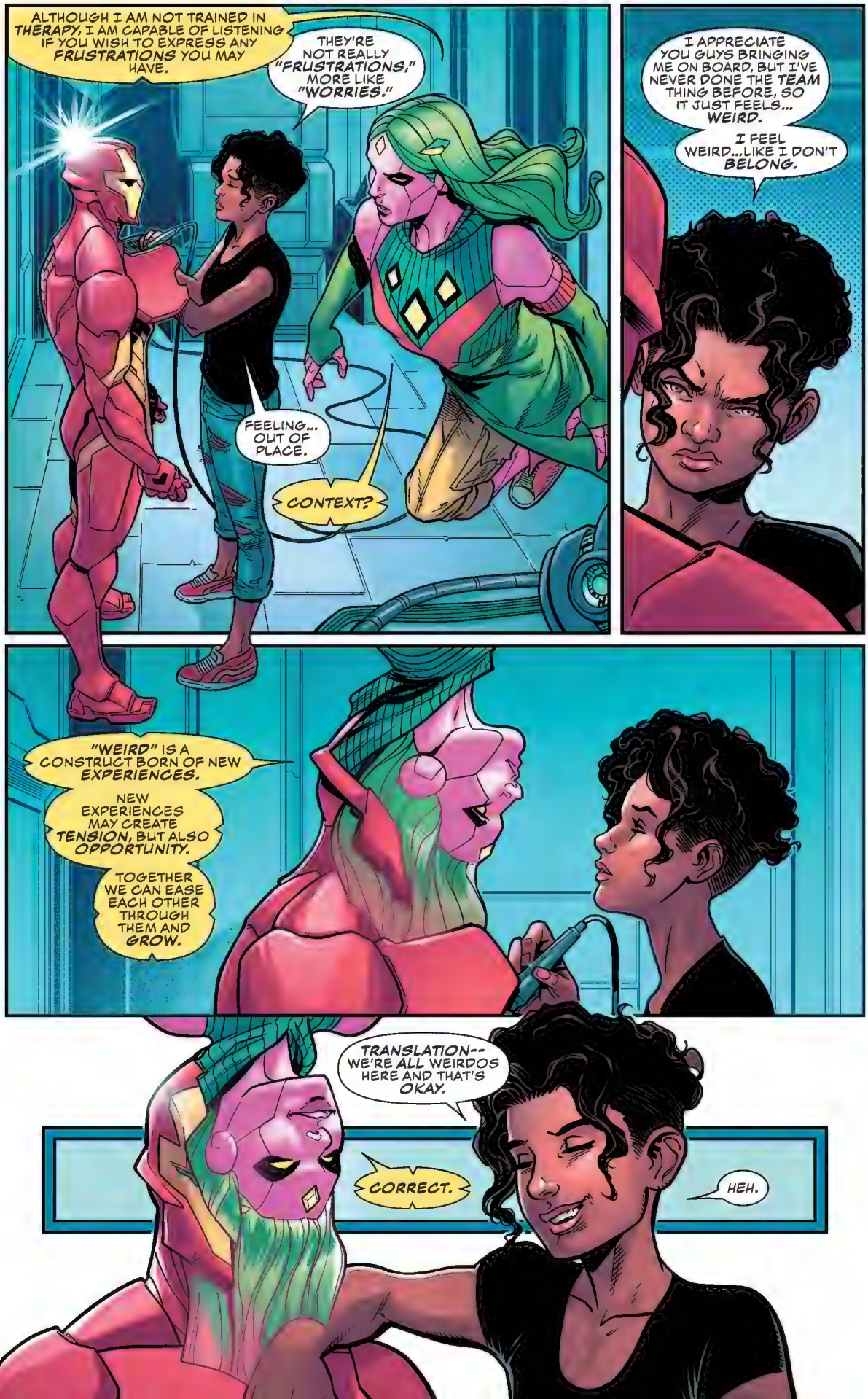

ONE OF THE RECORDING BEACONS HAS GONE OFFLINE, SO I'D LIKE TO DOUBLE-CHECK THE LOCATION IN PERSON AND REPLACE IT. IT WOULD BE A GOOD WAY TO TEST-DRIVE THE C.M.B. AND SETTLE IN.
*G.I.R.L.--GENIUS IN ACTION RESEARCH LABS. YOU DID READ THE UNSTOPPABLE WASP SERIES, DIDN'T YOU? --ALANNA

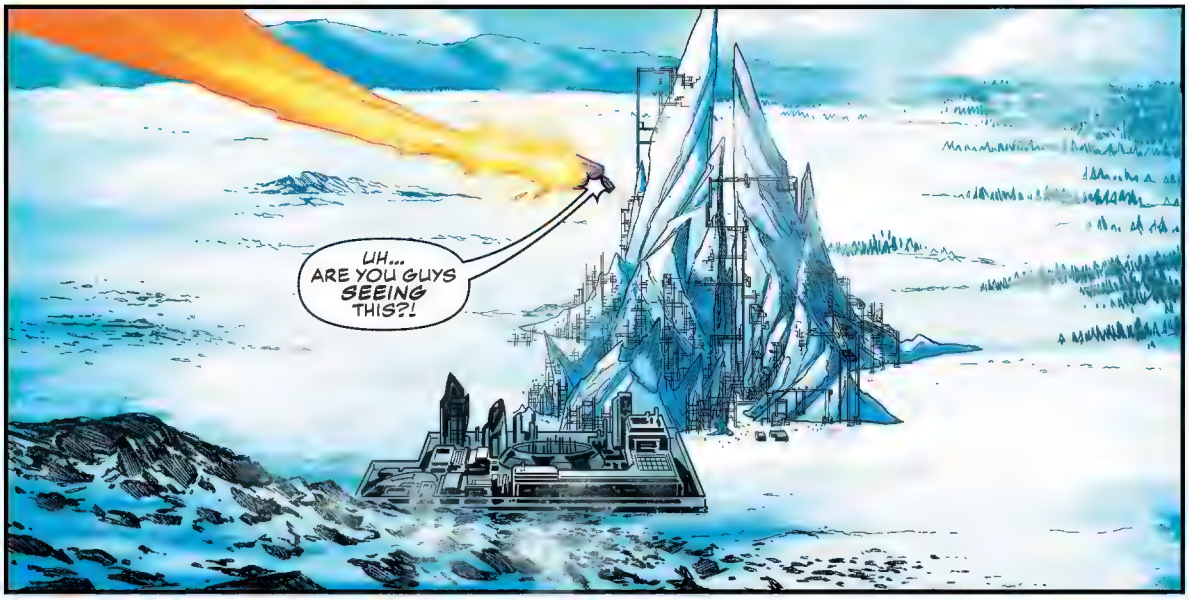

SOUNDS GOOD TO ME, BUT LET'S PUT IT TO A VOTE--
SCIENCE TRIP!
ROAD TRIP!
SWEEE-EET!

TEKKA TEKKA
BLIP BLOOP


UH, YEAH. SURE.
WHAT SHE SAID...

6 HOURS LATER.
NUNAVUT, NORTHERN CANADA.
KNOCK KNOCK
SIGH
COME IN, I GUESS...
RIRI. YOUR OTHER TEAMMATES ARE GROWING CONCERNED.
BUT YOU'RE NOT.
NO.
I HAVE DISENGAGED MY EMOTIONAL CORE TO MINIMIZE DISTRACTIONS CAUSED BY RECENT EVENTS AND FOCUS ON MY CURRENT HEROIC DUTIES.
SO, WHAT'S THAT LIKE?
I DO NOT UNDERSTAND YOUR QUERY.
NOT FEELING THINGS...WHAT'S IT LIKE?
I CANNOT FEEL A LACK OF FEELING. IT MERELY IS.
DEEP.


ALTHOUGH I AM NOT TRAINED IN THERAPY, I AM CAPABLE OF LISTENING IF YOU WISH TO EXPRESS ANY FRUSTRATIONS YOU MAY HAVE.
THEY'RE NOT REALLY "FRUSTRATIONS," MORE LIKE "WORRIES."
FEELING... OUT OF PLACE.
CONTEXT?
I APPRECIATE YOU GUYS BRINGING ME ON BOARD, BUT I'VE NEVER DONE THE TEAM THING BEFORE, SO IT JUST FEELS... WEIRD.
I FEEL WEIRD...LIKE I DON'T BELONG.
"WEIRD" IS A CONSTRUCT BORN OF NEW EXPERIENCES.
NEW EXPERIENCES MAY CREATE TENSION, BUT ALSO OPPORTUNITY.
TOGETHER WE CAN EASE EACH OTHER THROUGH THEM AND GROW.
TRANSLATION-- WE'RE ALL WEIRDOS HERE AND THAT'S OKAY.
CORRECT.
HEH.


UH... ARE YOU GUYS SEEING THIS?!

THAT GLACIER... WE DETECTED EXTREME CALVING A FEW WEEKS AGO AS IT WAS STARTING TO ERODE, BUT NOW...
ARE THEY REPAIRING THE ICE?
I DIDN'T THINK THAT WAS POSSIBLE.
IT'S NOT.

LEMME DIVE DOWN A BIT SO WE CAN TAKE A CLOSER LOOK.
OKAY, JUST BE CAREFUL.
ROGER THAT, M.M. OVER AND OUT.
I'M RIGHT HERE, AMADEUS. YOU DON'T NEED TO MAKE IT SOUND LIKE YOU'RE CALLING INTO AIR TRAFFIC CONTROL OR WHATEVER.
I DON'T NEED TO, BUT I WILL...BECAUSE IT'S FREAKIN' AWESOME.

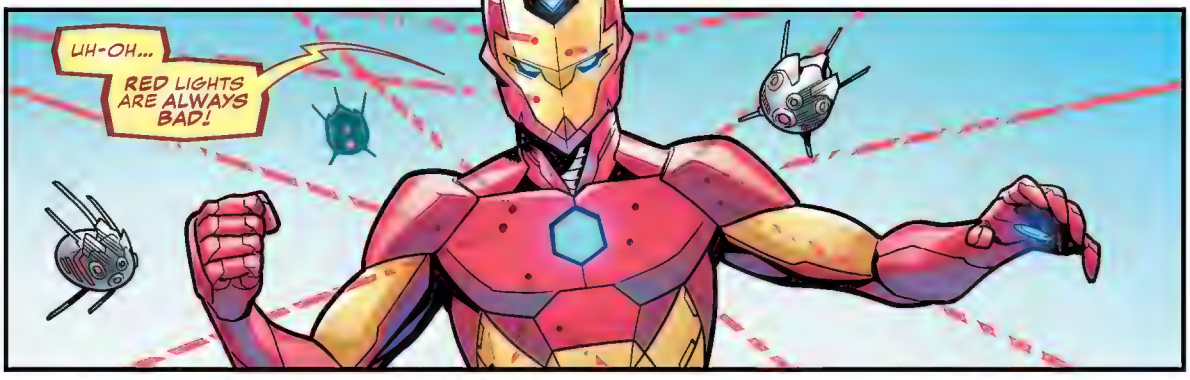
UNKNOWN VEHICLE WITHIN POSSIBLE THREAT RANGE.
VWEE
VWEE
VWEEEEE...

GREETINGS!
WE'RE THE CHAMPIONS!
AS A FAMOUS ALIEN ONCE SAID, "WE HAVE COME TO VISIT YOU IN PEACE--AND WITH GOODWILL."
VIV... WHAT'S UP?
THE C.M.B. IS BEING SCANNED BY OUTSIDE ENTITIES I DO NOT RECOGNIZE.
THAT DOESN'T SOUND GOOD.
YOU MAY WISH TO DON YOUR ARMOR, IRONHEART, JUST IN CASE.
WE'D LIKE TO DISCUSS YOUR CONSTRUCTION PROJECT!
SCAN AND IDENTIFY.
I DON'T LIKE THE WAY THESE DRONIES ARE SURROUNDING US.
IN CASE OF HOSTILITIES, WE ARE AT A DISTINCT DISADVANTAGE.
IT IS A BIT CREEPY, BUT LET'S KEEP THINGS CIVIL AND SEE HOW IT GOES...

I'M GLAD YOU PUT A BASKETBALL NET IN OUR ROOM, BUT I DON'T KNOW WHERE THE B--
OH...
NOT RIGHT NOW, SAM!

SHINE THAT LIGHT SOMEWHERE ELSE, PAL!
IDENTITY CONFIRMED: IRON MAN.
AVENGER.

THREAT LEVEL: HIGH.


UH-OH...
RED LIGHTS ARE ALWAYS BAD!

NADIA, I--
SPIDER-SENSE-- GET DOWN!

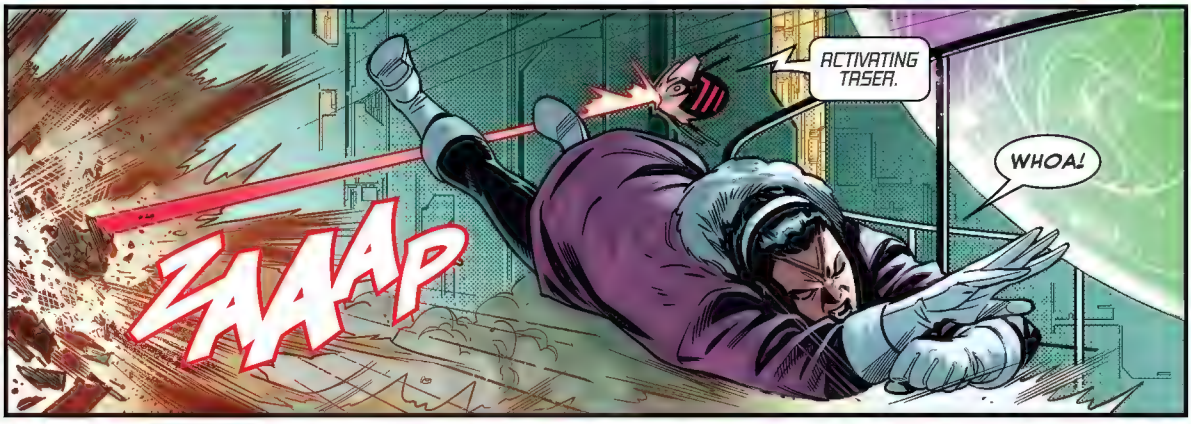
VORP
VORP
VORP
VORP
VORP
AHHHH!
VORP
HEY!
CONFIRMED. THE ENTITIES ARE HOSTILE.
VORP
VORP
RRRRRRR--!
VOOOOOOORP
HOLD ON, AMADEUS!
NO GOOD!
ITS OUTER SHELL IS TOUGHER THAN MY WASP STING!
THEY'RE STRONGER THAN THEY LOOK!
YAM
YAM

IT'S COOL, HULK, I GOT THIS.
YOU DO?!
OF COURSE!
THERE'S A REASON WHY THEY CALL ME--
--NOVA!
VRRR

--BUHHH...

LAST NIGHT.
<WHO... WHO ARE YOU?!>*
*TRANSLATED FROM INUKTITUT.
<I AM SILA.>
<I AM THE SKY, THE WIND, THE WEATHER...>
<...THE SOUL OF THE NORTH.>
<WHAT DO THEY CALL YOU?>
<I'M AMKA... AMKA ALIYAK.>
<HOW'D YOU END UP IN HERE?>
<THE LAND SHOOK AND I WAS PULLED FROM MY SLUMBER. I AWOKE SURROUNDED BY THIS UNNATURAL PLACE.>
<THAT SOUNDS CREEPY AND AWFUL, SO LET'S SEE IF WE CAN FIX IT.>
<THERE'S GOTTA BE A WAY TO SET YOU FREE...>
<WHO... WHO ARE YOU?!>*
*TRANSLATED FROM INUKTITUT.

PERIMETER SECURITY BREACH.
<BEWARE!>
OH, CRAP!
IDENTITY: UNENHANCED HUMAN.
THREAT LEVEL: LOW.
VWEE VWEE VWEE VWEE


ACTIVATING TASER.
WHOA!
ZAAAP

<LEAVE HER BE!>

ACTIVATE CONTAINMENT PROTOCOL.
AGGGHHH!
ZZZZZEEEEEE

NO!

I'LL SHOW YOU A "THREAT LEVEL"!
SWAP
TAKE THAT!
ZZZZKKK
ZRRRAK
WHOA!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
BOOM
AAAAAH!
A...AMKA?

huuh--
huuh--
huuh--
huuh--
<CHILD OF THE NORTH...>
<...THAT WAS VERY BRAVE.>
<I'M...I'M SORRY.>
<WHY?>
<MY UNCLE...HE TOLD STORIES ABOUT THE SILAP INUA...WHEN I WAS YOUNG...>
<I...I DIDN'T BELIEVE HIM...>
ENERGY BREACH.
<AND NOW YOU DO.>
<YEAH...>
:COUGH:
<RIGHT BEFORE I DIE...>
THREAT LEVEL: HIGH.
<YOU ARE A WARRIOR, AMKA ALIYAK...>
<...AND, THOUGH I DO NOT KNOW WHAT THE FUTURE HOLDS...>
<...I DO KNOW THIS...>

"<...YOU WILL NOT DIE THIS DAY.>"
NOW.
UH...
...THAT'S NOT GOOD.

NOVA, WAIT!
AH'M JUS' GONNA FLY HOME AN' GET A DOCTOR AN'--
VORP
VORP
N'UHHHH--
NOVA HAS LOST CONSCIOUSNESS.
VORP
VORP
I'LL KEEP THE DRONES FOCUSED ON ME! YOU GO GET HIM!
I WILL INCREASE MY DENSITY AND INTERCEPT.
SPLASH
WATER TEMPERATURE: 32.5°F.
HE WILL NOT LAST LONG.

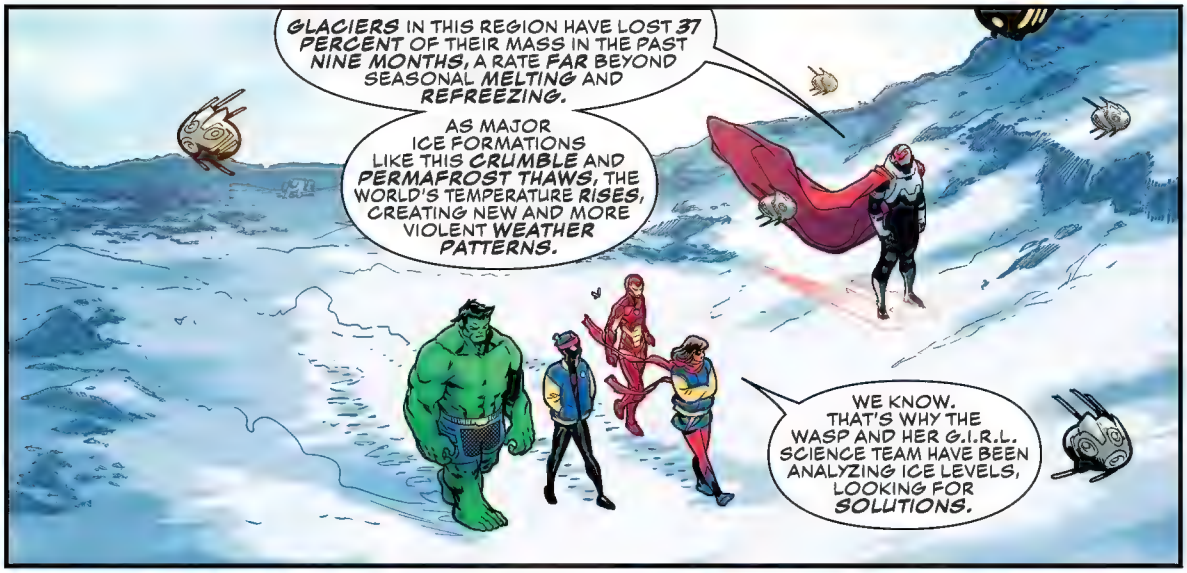
VORP
ROBOTS LIKE YOU GIVE INVENTORS LIKE ME A BAD NAME, YOU KNOW THAT?
GO PLAY IN THE MICROVERSE, YOU STUPID BALL-BOT!
ZWI-IP
THWIP
VORP
VORP
WE'RE GETTING WORKED!
HULK! WE'VE GOTTA GET OUT OF HERE!
ROGER THAT, SPIDEY!
KRONK

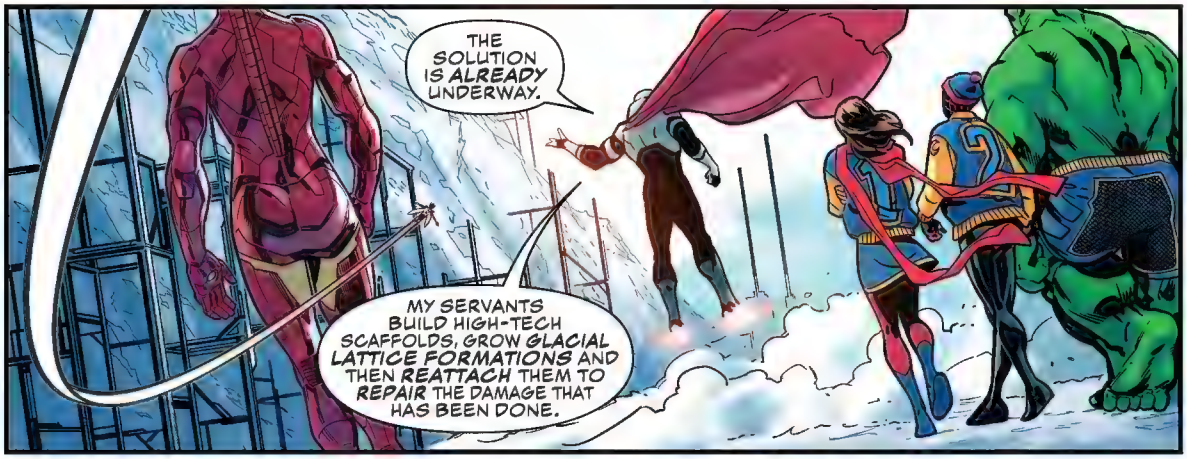
VORP
I'LL HOLD 'EM OFF WHILE YOU GUYS GRAB NOVA AND VIV!
VORP
VORP
VORP
VORP
VORP
VORP
RIRI, WE ARE NOT LEAVING YOU TO FIGHT ALONE!
WE'RE A TEAM AND--
NO TIME TO ARGUE, MS. MARVEL, JUST GO!
ENOUGH!
OFFENSIVE MEASURES: PAUSED.

WHAT IS THE MEANING OF THIS ASSAULT UPON MY DOMAIN?!
EXPLAIN YOURSELVES!
WHO THE FLIP IS THAT?!
I THINK HE CALLS HIMSELF THE "MASTER OF THE WORLD."
WOW. THAT IS THE MOST BAD GUY-ERIFFIC NAME I'VE EVER HEARD.

NOVA HAS SUFFERED SEVERE INTERNAL DAMAGE ALONG WITH COLD-WATER SHOCK AND HYPOTHERMIA.
HIS LIFE SIGNS ARE CRITICAL.
SPLASH
MY SERVANTS CAN HELP.
YOU THINK WE'RE GONNA LET YOU TOUCH HIM AFTER YOU--
IF YOU WANT TO SAVE HIS LIFE, YES.
WE CAME HERE FOR SCIENCE AND RESEARCH AND YOUR DRONES ATTACKED US!
THEY ENTERED DEFENSIVE MODE...
YOUR ROBOTS SHOT OUR FRIEND!
VIV, CAN YOU TREAT HIM?
HIS INJURIES ARE BEYOND MY ABILITIES, ESPECIALLY WITHOUT ANY EQUIPMENT ON HAND. WE HAVE NO OTHER OPTION WITHIN RANGE.
I GIVE YOU MY WORD THAT MY SERVANTS WILL NOT HARM THE BOY, BUT GO WITH THEM AND OBSERVE, IF YOU'D LIKE.
I WILL.

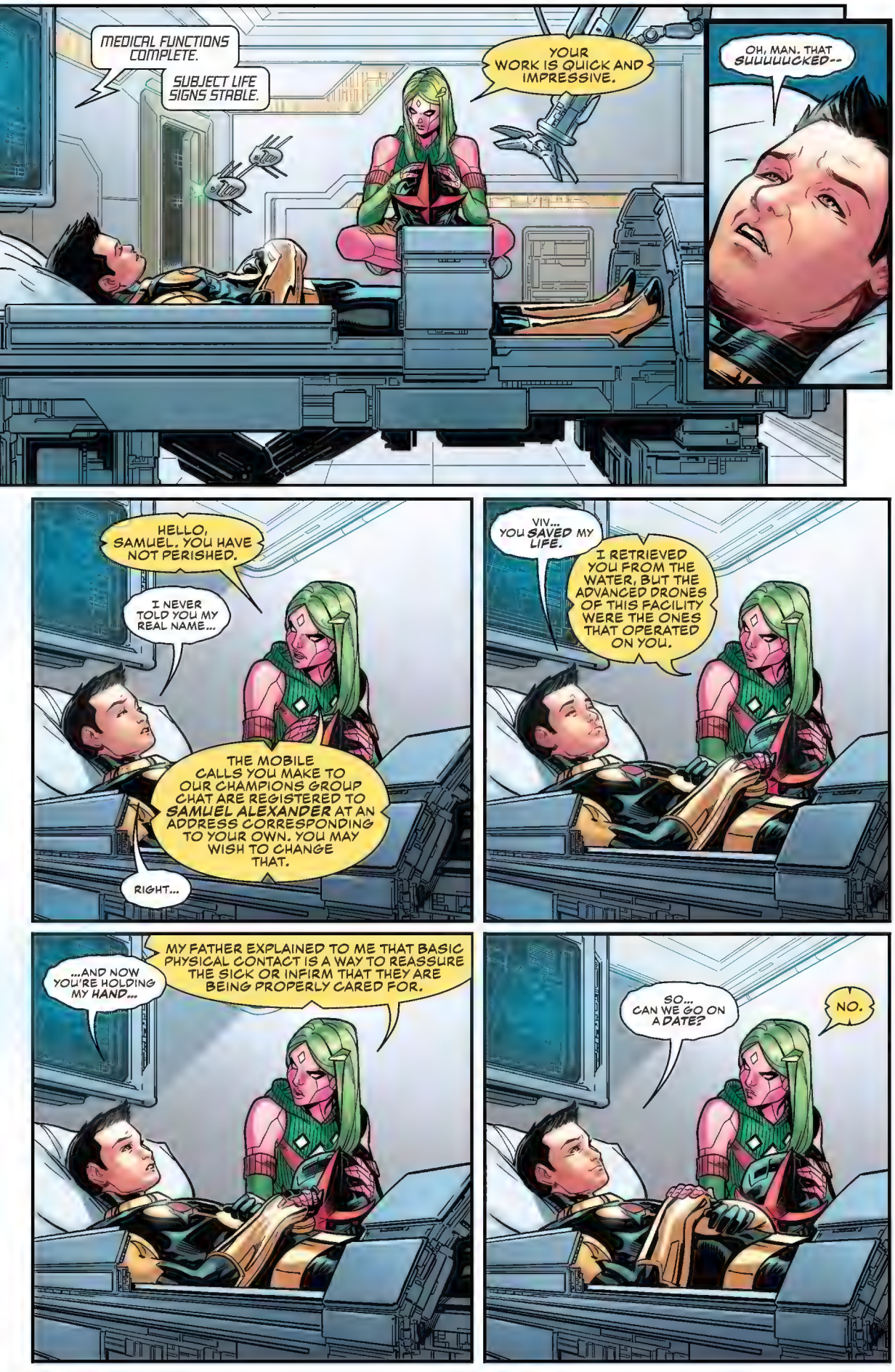
START TALKING, PAL. WHAT'S THIS ALL ABOUT?
I'M SORRY YOUR FRIEND WAS INJURED WHEN MY SERVANTS DEFENDED THIS SITE, BUT THE WORK I'M DOING HERE IS TOO VALUABLE TO BE DISTURBED.
OH YEAH? AND WHAT KIND OF WORK IS THAT?
QUITE SIMPLE, REALLY...
...I'M REPAIRING ARCTIC SEA ICE TO HALT GLOBAL CLIMATE CHANGE.
HUH?
WHAT?
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
QUITE.
COME WITH ME AND I'LL SHOW YOU...


GLACIERS IN THIS REGION HAVE LOST 37 PERCENT OF THEIR MASS IN THE PAST NINE MONTHS, A RATE FAR BEYOND SEASONAL MELTING AND REFREEZING.
AS MAJOR ICE FORMATIONS LIKE THIS CRUMBLE AND PERMAFROST THAWS, THE WORLD'S TEMPERATURE RISES, CREATING NEW AND MORE VIOLENT WEATHER PATTERNS.
WE KNOW. THAT'S WHY THE WASP AND HER G.I.R.L. SCIENCE TEAM HAVE BEEN ANALYZING ICE LEVELS, LOOKING FOR SOLUTIONS.


THE SOLUTION IS ALREADY UNDERWAY.
MY SERVANTS BUILD HIGH-TECH SCAFFOLDS, GROW GLACIAL LATTICE FORMATIONS AND THEN REATTACH THEM TO REPAIR THE DAMAGE THAT HAS BEEN DONE.

I DIDN'T THINK ICE CREATION WAS POSSIBLE ON THIS SCALE...
IT ISN'T, NOT WITH YOUR PRIMITIVE SCIENTIFIC SYSTEMS.
OVER FORTY THOUSAND YEARS AGO, I WAS A SIMPLE MAN WHO STUMBLED UPON A CRASHED VESSEL OF THE PLODEX, AN ADVANCED ALIEN RACE. THEY SAVED ME AND UPGRADED MY GENETIC STRUCTURE.
MY SERVANTS AND THIS FACILITY ARE BUILT USING THEIR SUPERIOR TECHNOLOGY.
OKAY, SO YOU'RE FIXING GLACIERS AND REBALANCING THE EARTH'S TEMPERATURE AND THAT'S, FORGIVE THE PUN, PRETTY COOL.
BUT YOU CALL YOURSELF "MASTER OF THE WORLD" AND YOU'RE BIG-TIME EVIL, SO WHAT'S THE CATCH?

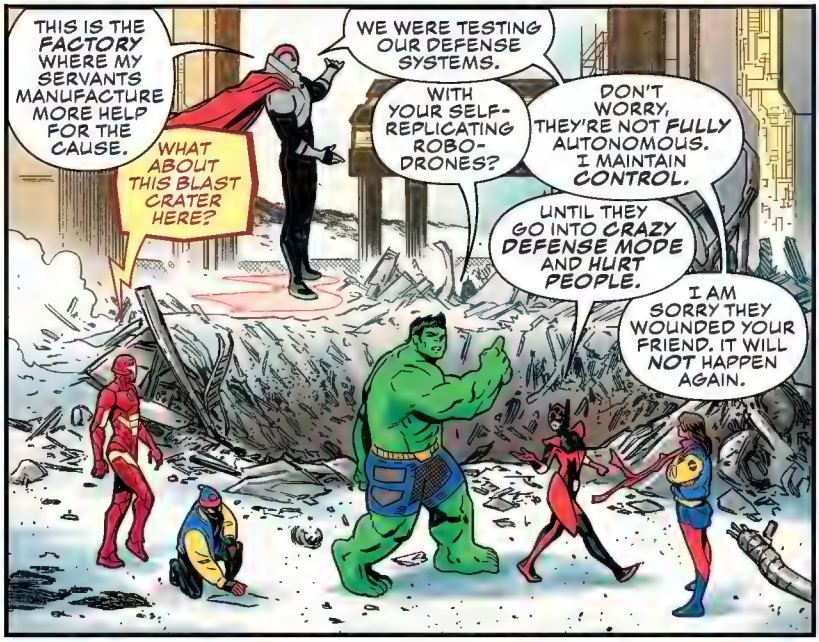
THE "CATCH" IS THAT I WILL RULE THIS PLANET AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE, BUT THE ONLY WAY I CAN DO THAT IS TO MAKE SURE THERE IS A PLANET FOR ME TO RULE.
IN SHORT, I'M HERE TO SAVE EARTH FROM ITSELF.
"AT SOME POINT IN THE FUTURE" YOU'RE GOING TO TAKE OVER?
HOW SOON IS THAT?
I HAVE WAITED OVER FORTY THOUSAND YEARS, LEARNING AND IMPROVING MYSELF AT EACH STEP.
WHAT'S A FEW HUNDRED MORE IF IT MEANS THIS PLANET IS SAFE AND HEALTHY, READY FOR CONQUEST?
UH...I THINK THIS REQUIRES A TEAM HUDDLE.


MEDICAL FUNCTIONS COMPLETE.
SUBJECT LIFE SIGNS STABLE.
YOUR WORK IS QUICK AND IMPRESSIVE.
OH, MAN. THAT SUUUUUCKED--
HELLO, SAMUEL. YOU HAVE NOT PERISHED.
I NEVER TOLD YOU MY REAL NAME...
THE MOBILE CALLS YOU MAKE TO OUR CHAMPIONS GROUP CHAT ARE REGISTERED TO SAMUEL ALEXANDER AT AN ADDRESS CORRESPONDING TO YOUR OWN. YOU MAY WISH TO CHANGE THAT.
RIGHT...
VIV... YOU SAVED MY LIFE.
I RETRIEVED YOU FROM THE WATER, BUT THE ADVANCED DRONES OF THIS FACILITY WERE THE ONES THAT OPERATED ON YOU.
...AND NOW YOU'RE HOLDING MY HAND...
MY FATHER EXPLAINED TO ME THAT BASIC PHYSICAL CONTACT IS A WAY TO REASSURE THE SICK OR INFIRM THAT THEY ARE BEING PROPERLY CARED FOR.
SO... CAN WE GO ON A DATE?
NO.

I'M FEELING REALLY TORN ABOUT ALL THIS.
BAD GUYS BEING GOOD IS...GOOD, RIGHT?
I SAW DOCTOR DOOM DO THIS HERO BIT WITH IRON MAN. I DON'T KNOW...

IF HE'S SERIOUS, THEN HE WON'T EVEN BE A THREAT 'TIL THE YEAR 2300-SOMETHING. BY THAT POINT, WE'LL ALL BE DEAD OR CLONES OR WHATEVER.
YEAH. WE'LL LEAVE THEM A TIME CAPSULE ABOUT IT...
SO THAT'S A CHAMPIONS: THE NEXT GENERATION PROBLEM?

SATISFIED?
FOR NOW.
GOOD. LET ME SHOW YOU THE REST OF THE FACILITY.


THIS IS THE FACTORY WHERE MY SERVANTS MANUFACTURE MORE HELP FOR THE CAUSE.
WHAT ABOUT THIS BLAST CRATER HERE?
WE WERE TESTING OUR DEFENSE SYSTEMS.
WITH YOUR SELF-REPLICATING ROBO-DRONES?
DON'T WORRY, THEY'RE NOT FULLY AUTONOMOUS. I MAINTAIN CONTROL.
UNTIL THEY GO INTO CRAZY DEFENSE MODE AND HURT PEOPLE.
I AM SORRY THEY WOUNDED YOUR FRIEND. IT WILL NOT HAPPEN AGAIN.

UH... DOES ANYONE ELSE HEAR... CHANTING?
OUR LAND! OUR RULES! NO MORE FACTORIES!

OUR LAND! OUR RULES! NO MORE FACTORIES!
PERIMETER SECURITY MAINTAINED.
THREAT LEVEL: MINIMAL.
YOU CAN'T HIDE FROM US!
WE'LL MAKE YOU FACE JUSTICE!
LOOKS LIKE THE LOCALS AREN'T HAPPY WITH YOUR EXPERIMENT...
THEY DO NOT APPRECIATE THE GREATER GOOD BEING SERVED HERE. BUT, EVEN SO, THEY WILL BENEFIT FROM ITS EFFECTS.
IT'S THE CHAMPIONS!
HULK... HULK! YOU'VE GOTTA HELP US!
WHAT'S GOING ON?
LISTEN TO ME, PLEASE! MY NAME'S PILIP. LAST NIGHT, MY FRIEND, AMKA... SHE SNUCK OVER THE FENCE AND NEVER CAME BACK!
HER MOTHER IS WORRIED SICK. I NEED TO FIND HER!
OH MY GOSH, THAT'S AWFUL!
THERE IS NO RECORD OF ANY TRESPASSERS UNTIL YOUR TEAM FLEW OVERHEAD AND ENGAGED MY SERVANTS.
I EMPATHIZE WITH THIS BOY'S PLIGHT BUT, I ASSURE YOU, SHE IS NOT HERE.
BUT SHE--

OUR LAND! OUR RULES! NO MORE FACTORIES!
YOU CAN'T BUILD HERE!
WE DESERVE CONTROL OF OUR LAND!
MY FRIENDS, THIS IS ABOUT FAR MORE THAN GOVERNMENT JURISDICTIONS OR TRIBAL LAND TREATIES...
ONCE THE WORLD'S CLIMATE IS SAFE, YOU'LL BE FREE TO QUIBBLE OVER BORDERS AND--
FOOP
URRK!
YOU DARE STRIKE ME?!
I SHOULD--
OUR LAND! OUR RULES! NO MORE FACTORIES!
THANKFULLY, I AM NOTHING IF NOT MAGNANIMOUS TOWARD MY NEIGHBORS HERE IN THE NORTH...

HULK, PLEASE!
TEAR DOWN THE FENCE! LET US TAKE BACK OUR LAND AND FIND MY FRIEND!
I...I DON'T KNOW, DUDE.
HE'S REALLY FIXING STUFF...SAVING THE ENVIRONMENT...
...IT'S... COMPLICATED.
THAT LOOK THE MASTER GAVE BACK THERE...PURE DOCTOR DOOM.
YEAH.
SPIDEY, I'VE GOT A BAD FEELING ABOUT THIS.
I HEAR THAT. I'M GONNA POKE AROUND... SEE WHAT I CAN FIND.
'KAY. I'LL HOLD DOWN THE FORT IN THE MEANTIME.
COME, NOW. WE'LL GO AND CHECK ON YOUR FRIEND'S RECOVERY...
THIS WHOLE THING FEELS SO AWKWARD. I DON'T WANT TO IGNORE THOSE PEOPLE...
WE'RE NOT. WE'LL MAKE SURE IT'S ON THE LEVEL AND THEN HELP THE MASTER AND THE VILLAGE COME TO SOME KIND OF AGREEMENT.

PERIMETER BREACH. PERIMETER BREACH.
MORE DISTRACTIONS?
IT'S SOME KIND OF SHIP...
IRONHEART, CAN YOU IDENTIFY IT?
RUNNING A SCAN NOW...
SIGH
IT WAS JUST A MATTER OF TIME...
IDENTIFIED
POSITIVE MATCH.
UH... MS. MARVEL, IT'S THE OMNIJET, WHICH MEANS IT'S--
SHOWDOWN

THREAT LEVEL: HIGH.
CAPTAIN MARVEL AND ALPHA FLIGHT, HOW GOOD TO SEE YOU AGAIN!
HAVE YOU MET MY NEW FRIENDS, THE CHAMPIONS?

CORRECT ME IF I'M WRONG, BUT I'M SENSING A BIT OF TENSION IN THE AIR...
...LET'S ALL SETTLE DOWN. I'M SURE WE CAN COME TO AN AMICABLE SOLUTION.
YOU KIDS NEED TO STEP BACK. WE'RE TAKING THE MASTER IN!

NO!
HE'S NOT HURTING ANYONE! THE MASTER--MAN, DO I HATE CALLING HIM THAT--HE'S USING HIS DRONES TO REBUILD GLACIERS AND SLOW DOWN GLOBAL WARMING!
THE YOUNG MARVELITE SPEAKS THE TRUTH. I'M HERE TO SAVE THE WORLD.
LET ME GUESS, YOU'RE GONNA "SAVE THE WORLD" SO YOU CAN CONQUER IT!
WHOA THERE, SASQUATCH.
NATURALLY, BUT THE TIMELINE ON MY DOMINATION OF THIS PLANET IS... FLEXIBLE.
YOU NEED TO TRUST ME ON THIS, MS. MARVEL.
THE MASTER IS A MEGALOMANIAC EMPOWERED WITH ALIEN TECHNOLOGY. WHATEVER HE TELLS YOU HE'S DOING, IT'S A LIE. PLAIN AND SIMPLE.
WE'RE HERE TO APPREHEND HIM SO HE CAN'T CAUSE ANY HARM.
HOW DO YOU KNOW WHAT HE'S DOING IS BAD 'TIL YOU LOOK AT IT?
WE'VE DEALT WITH THE MASTER BEFORE.
I GET IT, WHAT HE'S DOING IS TECHNICALLY ILLEGAL, BUT SO WAS LOCKING UP A BUNCH OF PEOPLE FOR "PREDICTIVE JUSTICE," RIGHT?!
YOU DID WHAT YOU THOUGHT WAS RIGHT, NO MATTER WHAT!
THAT WAS QUITE A RICH LITTLE MORAL CONFLICT, WASN'T IT?
SHUT UP, YOU SMUG PSYCHOPATH.
ARE WE REALLY GOING THERE RIGHT NOW? IS THAT WHAT THIS IS ABOUT?
I THOUGHT YOU SAID WE WERE COOL... THAT WE'D TALK ABOUT IT!
AND WE WILL, BUT NOT HERE AND NOT LIKE THIS.

VIV, YOU THERE? WE'VE GOT A SITUATION FORMING AND COULD USE SOME BACKUP.
UNDERSTOOD, IRONHEART. NOVA AND I ARE READY TO ASSIST.
WE ARE?
YOU KIDS DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE DOING.
ADULTS KEEP SAYING THAT, BUT I DON'T SEE YOU FIXING THE ICE, PUCK!
I DON'T WANT TO FIGHT YOU, BUT WE'RE NOT BACKING DOWN. THE MASTER IS TOO DANGEROUS.
THIS MACHO GARBAGE...THIS IS WHY I QUIT THE AVENGERS.
FEAR NOT, CAROL. A SIMPLE SPELL OF SLUMBER SHOULD DO THE TR--
I DON'T THINK SO, TALISMAN!
UHHH--!
ROOOAR--!
SIGH
SO MUCH FOR DIPLOMACY...

ACTIVE PERIMETER THREAT: INTERCEPTING.
I HOPE EVERYTHING'S OKAY UP TOP...
SPIDER-SENSE TINGLING JUST A BIT.
SOMETHING DANGEROUS NEARBY...
I'LL JUST FOLLOW THAT LITTLE PULSE...
...CAREFULLY...
...AND SEE WHERE IT LEADS.
FEELS PRETTY STRONG 'ROUND THIS CORNER--
OH, MY GOD!

QUICKLY, SNOWBIRD!
KNOCK AMADEUS OUT BEFORE HE BREAKS MY GRIP!
ROAR!
WHUMP
OOOF--!
STAND DOWN, MISS WILLIAMS!
THE NAME'S IRONHEART, CAPTAIN MARVEL!
HEY!
THIS IS A COMPLETE DISASTER!
DON'T DESPAIR, MS. MARVEL! ONCE WE SUBDUE ALPHA FLIGHT, WE CAN SHOW THEM THE GLACIER REPAIR PROCESS AND COME TO SOME KIND OF COMPROMISE!
GO GET HER!
I DON'T UNDERSTAND... WHY IS THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY HERE SO WEAK?
ISWEARWEDON'TWANNAHURTANYONE!
AHHH!

THAT WAS A GOOD HIT, SNOWBIRD...
...BUT I'M THE HULK!
JUST REMEMBER, YOUR MAGIC LADY STARTED THIS!
NNNG--!
HAM

THIS IS JUST DELICIOUS...
...EVEN MORE SATISFYING THAN I HOPED.
I KNOW THIS ISN'T THE BEST TIMING, BUT I REALLY AM A BIG FAN OF YOUR WORK, DR. LANGKOWSKI!
YOUR PAPERS ON GAMMA RADIATION WERE VERY INFORMATIVE WHEN I WAS STUDYING IN RUSSIA!
UHHH--
I HOPE WE CAN BE FRIENDS AFTER THIS IS OVER!
EH?!
KID-HULK, YOU'RE MAKIN' A MISTAKE!
OH YEAH, PUCK? ONLY MISTAKE I SEE--
--IS MESSING WITH ME!
THOOM
UHHHH--
HAVE TO PUT AMADEUS DOWN BEFORE HE LAYS OUT THE WHOLE TEAM...

ONE INTERGALACTIC-POWERED INTERCEPTION COMING RIGHT UP!
UHHH--!
OWW!
CAROL!
NOVA!
IT WOULD BE UNWISE TO CONTINUE YOUR ATTACK, SNOWBIRD.
WE HAVE SUPERIOR NUMBERS AND AT LEAST FOUR OTHER DISTINCT COMBAT ADVANTAGES AT THIS TIME.

DON'T WORRY, I GOTCHA.
UHHH...
ARE... ARE YOU OKAY?
<WH-WHERE AM I?>*
*TRANSLATED FROM INUKTITUT.
AW, GEEZ! I REALLY HOPE YOU'RE NOT RADIOACTIVE OR ANYTHING LIKE THAT...
NOT THAT I HAVEN'T BEEN BITTEN BY WORSE...
<...THE MAN WITH HIS MACHINES...>
<HURTING ME...TAKING MY SOUL...>
RRRRRRR
uh-oh--

IS THAT AN EARTHQUAKE?
NO. IT'S SOME KIND OF POWERFUL MAGIC ENERGY!
I SENSE IT, TOO, TALISMAN...
ROOOAAR!
AAAAHHHH--!
KRAKOOM

TRUCE?
...YEAH.
I'LL HOLD THAT BIG N' UGLY WHILE YOU TWO WEAR IT DOWN!
AGREED.
AFFIRMATIVE, HULK.
SHE'S FREAKING OUT, BUT I DON'T THINK SHE'S A BAD GUY! WE'VE GOTTA STOP HER!
CHOMP
WELL, THIS IS UNFORTUNATE...

RRRRAAA!
UHHH!
PLEASE DON'T HURT EVERYONE!
ZZZAK
UH...DR. LANGKOWSKI?
WHERE'D YOU GO?
I'M DOWN HERE!
TURN OFF THE PYM PARTICLES!

SURPRISE, FUR-FACE!
GRRRRRR--
CONCENTRATE FIRE!
KEEP IT OFF-BALANCE!
I MUST DISSIPATE THE SPIRITUAL ENERGY FUELING THIS CREATURE...
WHATEVER YOU'RE GOING TO DO, DO IT NOW!
WOOOM
UHHHHH--

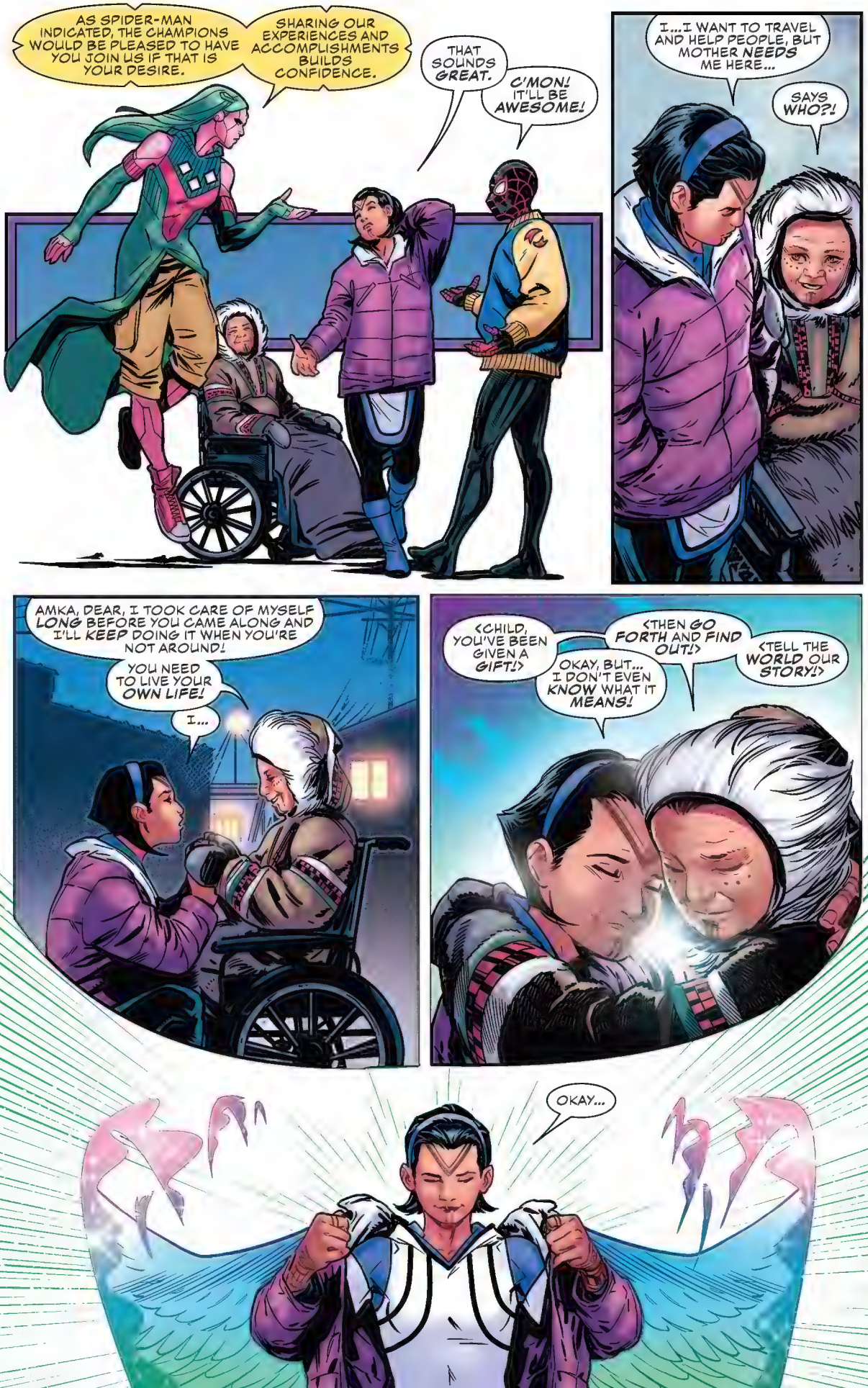
PLEASE DON'T TURN INTO A MONSTER AGAIN...
<I...I WON'T...>
<OH, RIGHT, YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND INUKTITUT...>
I... I'M NOT A MONSTER.
YOUNG GIRL...WERE YOU CURSED?
NOT A CURSE, NO...IT'S A BLESSING.
SILA, THE SOUL OF THE NORTH... SAVED ME.
SILA'S ENERGY WAS PULLED OUT OF THE GROUND BY MACHINES AND USED LIKE A BATTERY...
...BY YOU.
SIGH
YOU WOULD STRIP THIS LAND OF ITS GREAT SPIRIT?

"SPIRIT"?... FEH!
ALL ENERGY IS A RESOURCE TO BE USED BY THOSE POWERFUL ENOUGH TO WIELD IT.
SAVING EARTH FROM HUMANKIND'S CONTAMINATION IS FAR MORE IMPORTANT THAN AN OLD MAGIC GHOST...
THAT'S NOT YOUR CHOICE TO MAKE!
THIS OPERATION OF YOURS IS OVER!
FACE YOUR CRIMES, CORRUPTOR!
VORP
VORP
I THINK NOT.
VORP
GO FOR CHAMPIONS!
ALPHA FLIGHT, ATTACK!

YOU FOOLS WILL NEVER LEARN!
THIS WORLD DOES NOT DESERVE MY GENIUS!
THE SCAFFOLDS ARE SELF-DESTRUCTING!
KRAKOOM

A FEW HOURS LATER.
CAROL...I'M REALLY SORRY. I NEVER WANTED THINGS TO GO THIS WAY.
I KNOW YOU DIDN'T, KAMALA. YOUR HEART WAS IN THE RIGHT PLACE. IT ALWAYS IS.
I SHOULDN'T HAVE JUMPED THE GUN AND FORCED YOU INTO A FIGHT.
LOOK...PEOPLE LIKE THE MASTER, THEY PREY ON OUR FEARS, OFFERING QUICK SOLUTIONS TO BIG PROBLEMS.
I TRULY BELIEVE WE CAN OVERCOME ANYTHING, BUT WE HAVE TO DO IT TOGETHER.
YEAH!
WE WERE SO EXCITED BY WHAT THE MASTER COULD DO THAT WE DIDN'T LISTEN TO THE PEOPLE OF PANGNIRTUNG.
I WAS TRUSTING MY GUT, BUT I SHOULD HAVE TRUSTED THEIRS.
WELL, I DON'T THINK AMKA WILL LET YOU MAKE THAT MISTAKE AGAIN.

AMKA, I CAN'T BELIEVE IT! YOU'RE A SUPER HERO!
A WHAT?! NO, PILIP. I'M JUST... ME.
YOUR FRIEND SPEAKS TRUE, AMKA.
I COULD PUT YOU IN TOUCH WITH MY PAL, JAMES HUDSON. HE COULD ENROLL YOU IN THE BETA FLIGHT TRAINING PROGRAM.
NO WAY, PUCK! I MET HER FIRST, SO SHE'S STICKING WITH THE CHAMPIONS!
SLOW DOWN, SPIDEY. SHE GETS TO DECIDE.
<A-AMKA?>
<AMKA, MY BABY, YOU'RE FILLED WITH LIGHT!>
<SILA'S ENERGY MOVES THROUGH ME NOW, MOTHER.>
<I NEVER BELIEVED IN THE OLD WAYS.>
<I TOLD GREAT-GRANDFATHER HIS STORIES WERE ALL MAKE-BELIEVE...>
<NOW HERE I AM...FILLED WITH SPIRITS AND SONGS I'VE NEVER HEARD BEFORE. WHAT WOULD HE SAY TO ME NOW?>
<HE'D BE PROUD.>


AS SPIDER-MAN INDICATED, THE CHAMPIONS WOULD BE PLEASED TO HAVE YOU JOIN US IF THAT IS YOUR DESIRE.
SHARING OUR EXPERIENCES AND ACCOMPLISHMENTS BUILDS CONFIDENCE.
THAT SOUNDS GREAT.
C'MON! IT'LL BE AWESOME!
I...I WANT TO TRAVEL AND HELP PEOPLE, BUT MOTHER NEEDS ME HERE...
SAYS WHO?!
AMKA, DEAR, I TOOK CARE OF MYSELF LONG BEFORE YOU CAME ALONG AND I'LL KEEP DOING IT WHEN YOU'RE NOT AROUND!
YOU NEED TO LIVE YOUR OWN LIFE!
I...
<CHILD, YOU'VE BEEN GIVEN A GIFT!>
OKAY, BUT... I DON'T EVEN KNOW WHAT IT MEANS!
<THEN GO FORTH AND FIND OUT!>
<TELL THE WORLD OUR STORY!>
OKAY...

...I WILL!

INFINITY COUNTDOWN: CHAMPIONS 1

INFINITY COUNTDOWN

WHEN SOCIETY BECAME DISILLUSIONED WITH ITS HEROES, THE NEXT GENERATION MADE A VOW TO DO BETTER. TO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. TO CHANGE THE WORLD. THEY ARE THE...

CHAMPIONS

WHEN THE INFINITY STONES WERE REBORN, THE UNIVERSE WAS THROWN INTO CHAOS AS BOTH HEROES AND VILLAINS RACED TO LOCATE THEM — AND AS BATTLES BROKE OUT WHERE THEY WERE FOUND. THE LEADER OF THE CHITAURI, WARBRINGER, SOUGHT THE POWER STONE, HOPING TO USE IT TO RECLAIM HIS PLANET FROM THANOS' CONTROL. AND NOW, THE CHAMPIONS ARE ABOUT TO END UP RIGHT IN THE MIDDLE OF IT ALL...

MOST OF THE TIME, MY NAME'S SAM ALEXANDER. I'M A 15-YEAR-OLD KID LIVING IN CAREFREE, ARIZONA.
I GO TO SCHOOL. I PLAY VIDEO GAMES. I WATCH DUMB VIDEOS ONLINE...
BZZZZ-BZZZZ BZZZZ BZZZZ
ZZZZSN-- HUH?
What's that sound?
...BUT WHEN THERE'S DANGER, I SLAM ON A SPIFFY SPACE HELMET AND TURN INTO A SUPER HERO.
BZZZZ-BZZZZ
IT'S COMING FROM MY HELMET!

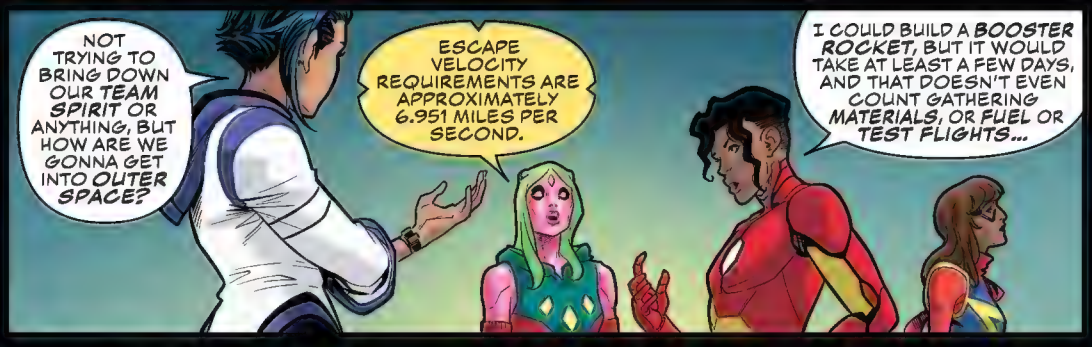
MY NOVA HELMET CONNECTS TO NOVA ENERGY AND A GROUP CALLED THE NOVA CORPS.
YEAH, THEIR BRANDING IS PRETTY ON POINT.
BZZZZ-BZZZZ
NEVER SEEN IT DO THIS BEFORE...
--TO ALL NOVA CORPS OFFICERS RECEIVING THIS DISTRESS CALL!
RXTKLT TBSUZS NRLRBLLL XTLTRDS XSBNPN AT XITPPNG. BUT THEY WERE FORCED TO RETREAT
WARBRINGER HAS BROKEN THROUGH OUR SHIELDS AND DAMAGED
WE CAN'T HOLD ON MUCH LONGER!
WARBRINGER?!
WARBRINGER IS A CRAZY ALIEN FROM A RACE CALLED THE CHITAURI. HE'S DESTROYED ENTIRE WORLDS.
COORDINATES ENCODED HERE
FIND US
HE'S HERE! HE'S BREACHED THE--
FWASH
NO, NO, NO, NO!

SAM? IT'S AFTER MIDNIGHT...IS EVERYTHING OKAY?
NO, MOM! IT'S...
I'VE GOTTA GO!
OH, YEAH, THANKFULLY MY MOM KNOWS MY SECRET IDENTITY. I KEPT IT SECRET FOR A WHILE AND IT SUCKED.
SHE'S COOL WITH IT, ALL THINGS CONSIDERED.
SUPER HERO STUFF?
YEAH, IT'S... IT'S THE NOVA CORPS! THEY'RE IN TROUBLE!
THEY SENT A DISTRESS CALL!
HOW LONG WILL YOU BE GONE?
I... I DON'T KNOW.
CAN...CAN YOU CALL THE CHAMPIONS? MAYBE THEY CAN HELP.
IN OUTER SPACE?
I DON'T KNOW! YOU'RE THE SPACE HERO, KIDDO, I...I JUST DON'T WANT YOU TO GO ALONE.
I...I'M SCARED, SAM.
I KNOW, BUT I'LL COME BACK.
PROMISE?
...PROMISE.
I LIED.

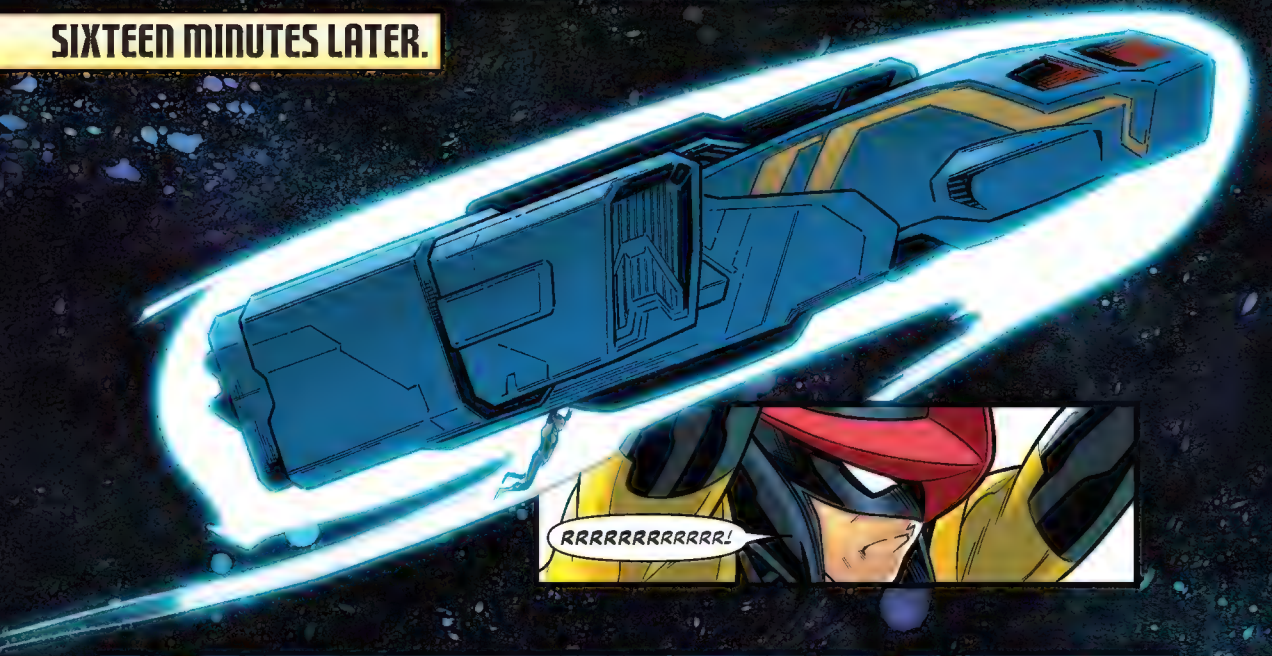
LAST TIME I FOUGHT WARBRINGER, HE ALMOST BEAT THE AVENGERS.*
THE TIME BEFORE THAT, HE NEARLY KILLED ME.**
I DON'T KNOW IF I CAN BEAT HIM ALONE.
*ALL-NEW, ALL-DIFFERENT AVENGERS #1-3.
**NOVA VOL. 5 #29-31.
BRRRRRZZ--
HELLO, NOVA.
WHOA, THAT WAS FAST!
I AM A SYNTHEZOID. SLEEP IS NOT A BIOLOGICAL REQUIREMENT FOR PROPER FUNCTIONING.
LOOK, VIV, I WAS JUST GONNA LEAVE YOU A VOICEMAIL AND--
NO NEED. YOU MAY EXPLAIN DIRECTLY.
BASED ON CELL RECEPTION TRIANGULATION, YOU APPEAR TO BE FLYING QUITE QUICKLY. ARE YOU IN DANGER?
SORT OF, BUT IT'S COMPLICATED...

AMKA IS HERE STAYING WITH ME. I WILL CONTACT THE OTHER CHAMPIONS ON A GROUP CALL. ONE MOMENT...
WHAT?! NO!
VIVVY, IT'S REALLY LATE...
HEY, VIV! WHAT'S GOING ON?
YOU GUYS ARE AWAKE?!
IT'S RAID NIGHT IN WORLD OF BATTLECRAFT. WE'RE FISHING FOR PHAT LOOT BEFORE SOLSTICE PATCH CONTENT GOES BYE-BYE.
OH.
I BRAINSTORMED A NEW COUPLING CONFIGURATION AND NEEDED TO GET IT OUT OF MY HEAD BEFORE I CRASHED OUT.
OKAY.
I... I'M UP NOW.
SORRY.
SPIDER-MAN IS STILL RECOVERING IN THE HOSPITAL* AND HULK IS NOT PICKING UP.
*SPIDER-MAN #240.
LOOK, I WAS JUST CONTACTING VIV TO SAY GOODBYE. I'M HEADING OFF-PLANET. DON'T KNOW WHEN I'M COMING BACK.
THERE'S A BAD GUY NAMED WARBRINGER AND HE--
WARBRINGER?! HE'S BACK?!
KAMALA, ARE YOU AFK? WE NEED YOUR HEALZ, GIRL!
NOVA, PLEASE DON'T FIGHT HIM ON YOUR OWN!
TPK! TPK! RETREAT!
DUDE, IF YOU GO INTO SPACE WITHOUT US, I WILL KICK YOUR BUTT FROM ATLANTIC TO PACIFIC.
GET YOUR ROCKET REAR OVER HERE AND LET'S FIGURE THIS OUT.

AS MUCH AS I FEEL GUILTY ABOUT ALL THIS, I HAVE TO ADMIT...
LOOK, GANG, I... I DIDN'T WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE.
WASP: NADIA VAN DYNE. CAN REDUCE HER SIZE USING PYM PARTICLES AND USES HER SUIT TO FLY WITH BIOSYNTHETIC WINGS AND FIRE BIOELECTRIC BLASTS.
MS. MARVEL: KAMALA KHAN. AN INHUMAN WHO USES HER MORPHOGENIC POWERS TO ALTER HER SIZE AND SHAPE.
IRONHEART: RIRI WILLIAMS. A GENIUS INVENTOR WEARING A HIGH-TECH POWER SUIT BASED ON TONY STARK'S IRON MAN ARMOR TECHNOLOGY.
SNOWGUARD: AMKA ALIYAK. INFUSED WITH SPIRITUAL MAGIC, SHE CAN CHANNEL ANIMAL TRAITS TO ENHANCE HER PHYSICAL ABILITIES.
VIV VISION: SYNTHEZOID WITH THE POWER TO ALTER HER DENSITY, FLY, EMIT ENERGY AND CONNECT TO MACHINE NETWORKS.
NOVA, WE'RE A TEAM. WE'RE HERE TO HELP EACH OTHER.
I KNOW, I JUST--
PLEASE.
OKAY.
...IT'S NICE TO KNOW THEY'VE GOT MY BACK.


NOT TRYING TO BRING DOWN OUR TEAM SPIRIT OR ANYTHING, BUT HOW ARE WE GONNA GET INTO OUTER SPACE?
ESCAPE VELOCITY REQUIREMENTS ARE APPROXIMATELY 6.951 MILES PER SECOND.
I COULD BUILD A BOOSTER ROCKET, BUT IT WOULD TAKE AT LEAST A FEW DAYS, AND THAT DOESN'T EVEN COUNT GATHERING MATERIALS, OR FUEL OR TEST FLIGHTS...

I WAS THINKING ABOUT THAT ON THE WAY OVER HERE...
NOVA, I'VE SEEN YOU CREATE FORCE FIELDS AND PROPEL PEOPLE INSIDE THEM.
DO YOU THINK YOU COULD DO THAT WITH THE CHAMPIONS MOBILE BUNKER?
ONLY ONE WAY TO FIND OUT...


SIXTEEN MINUTES LATER.
RRRRRRRRRRR!

OKAY, I'M IMPRESSED.

BASED ON THE COORDINATES IN THAT DISTRESS SIGNAL, WE SHOULD BE APPROACHING THEIR LOCATION.
SO, EVERYONE STAY ALERT AND WE'LL...
...UH...
Oh, my gosh...
"...IT'S ALL GONE."

IT'S ALL IN THE NAME...
WARBRINGER.
WHEREVER HE GOES, THERE'S ONLY DESTRUCTION.
INITIAL SWEEP REVEALS NO LIFE SIGNS.
ULTRON-MINOR-5768215 UNIT RECORDING.
UNKNOWN ENTITIES, SCANNING.
HUMAN WITH UNKNOWN AUGMENTATION.
HUMAN WITH UNKNOWN AUGMENTATION.
SYNTHEZOID. VISION CONSTRUCT.
HUMAN WITH PYM PARTICLE EMITTERS.
HUMAN WITH STARK-CONFIGURATION ARMOR.
HUMAN BEARING BLACK NOVA TECHNOLOGY.
INTRIGUING...
FOLLOW AND GATHER MORE INFORMATION.
AFFIRMATIVE.
QUERY ULTRON-CORE. IDENTIFY.
STARK ARMOR, A NOVA, PYM PARTICLES AND A SYNTHEZOID?
AFFIRMATIVE.

I SHOULD HAVE BEEN HERE... MAYBE I COULD HAVE STOPPED HIM.
I KNOW YOU FEEL TERRIBLE ABOUT THIS, BUT THERE'S NOTHING YOU COULD'VE DONE. NOT AGAINST AN AMBUSH LIKE THIS.
IF YOU WOULD'VE BEEN HERE, YOU'D HAVE BEEN KILLED, TOO.
NOVA OUTPOST WOODROW-ALPHA, DO YOU COPY?
THIS IS SCOTT ADSIT OF THE NOVA CORPS. IF YOU ARE RECEIVING THIS, PLEASE RESPOND AND GIVE US YOUR STATUS.
UH... HELLO?
OH, THANK GOD!
WHO IS THIS? WHAT'S YOUR GAUGE NUMBER?
I'M...I'M A NOVA FROM...UH... FROM OUTSIDE THIS JURISDICTION.
I RESPONDED TO THE DISTRESS CALL AND...I'M SORRY, BUT THE SITE IS COMPLETELY TOAST.
I'M ON THE HUNT FOR WARBRINGER AND WILL BRING HIM TO JUSTICE.
NEGATIVE, NOVA. THAT'S TOO DANGEROUS. RETURN TO THE ROCK FOR FURTHER ORDERS.
YEAH, I HEAR YOU, BUT I'M NOT GOING TO DO THAT. SORRY.
WARBRINGER IS MY PROBLEM. I'VE BEAT HIM BEFORE AND I'LL DO IT AGAIN.
NOVA-SAM, OVER AND OUT.
TRANSMISSION ENDED.
DID HE SAY "NOVA-SAM"?

GOOD NEWS, GANG.
WHATEVER WEAPON THIS WAR-DUDE USED, IT LEFT A REALLY BEEFY ENERGY SIGNATURE.
HOW BEEFY?
BEEFY LIKE "WE CAN TRACK THIS PARTICULAR HAMBURGER BACK TO ITS RESPECTIVE RESTAURANT."
PLEASE STOP FOOD-TALKING. I'M GETTING HUNGRY.
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP FOR ANOTHER TRIP SO SOON?
YEAH. WE'VE GOTTA GO NOW...
...BEFORE ANYONE ELSE GETS HURT.
AS WE HURTLE ACROSS THE COSMOS, I THINK ABOUT ALL THE PEOPLE WARBRINGER HAS KILLED.
THE LIVES HE'S DESTROYED.

NOVA, THE ENERGY WE'RE TRACKING IS CENTERED ON THAT SHIP.
IT'S WARBRINGER.
WHEN I SEE THAT SHIP, EVERYTHING GOES RED.
I HAVE TO STOP HIM.
I HEAR THAT. LET'S MAKE A BATTLE PLAN AND--
LEAVE IT TO ME!
YOU FEEL THAT? WE'RE SLOWING DOWN...
NOVA?

WARBRINGER, THAT LIGHT IS NO MISSILE, IT'S--
I KNOW WHO IT IS, YOU FOOL.
HE IS MINE.
NOVA!
DON'T BE AFRAID.
DON'T BACK DOWN.

OH MY GOD...
YOU CAUGHT ME OFF GUARD IN THE PAST...
...BUT NOT ANYMORE...
GKK GKKK...
...NOW YOU'RE JUST A MOMENTARY DISTRACTION ON MY PATH OF REVENGE.
SAY HELLO TO CHITAURI PRIME...
THOOOM

WARBRINGER, THE HUMAN HAS BROUGHT ALLIES IN A PRIMITIVE TRANSPORT VESSEL.
IGNORE THEM. OUR TRUE TARGET AWAITS ON THE PLANET BELOW.
OKAY, CHAMPIONS. THESE ARE CHITAURI, ONE OF THE MOST DANGEROUS ALIEN RACES IN THE UNIVERSE.
BE READY FOR ANYTHING!
WE...WE DON'T WANT TO FIGHT!
WE'RE JUST HERE TO GRAB OUR FRIEND AND THEN WE'LL GO!
WHAT ARE THEY DOING?!
THEY APPEAR TO BE KNEELING.
UH...I THOUGHT YOU SAID THESE GUYS WERE DANGEROUS!
WHAT HAPPENED HERE?
OUR WARRIORS EXIST ONLY TO SERVE THE KING.
UNTIL HE ORDERS THEM TO FIGHT, THEY HAVE NO PURPOSE, NO WILL OF THEIR OWN.
THEY'RE LIKE PUPPETS WITH THEIR STRINGS CUT.
THAT'S WEIRD... WHO'S THEIR KING?

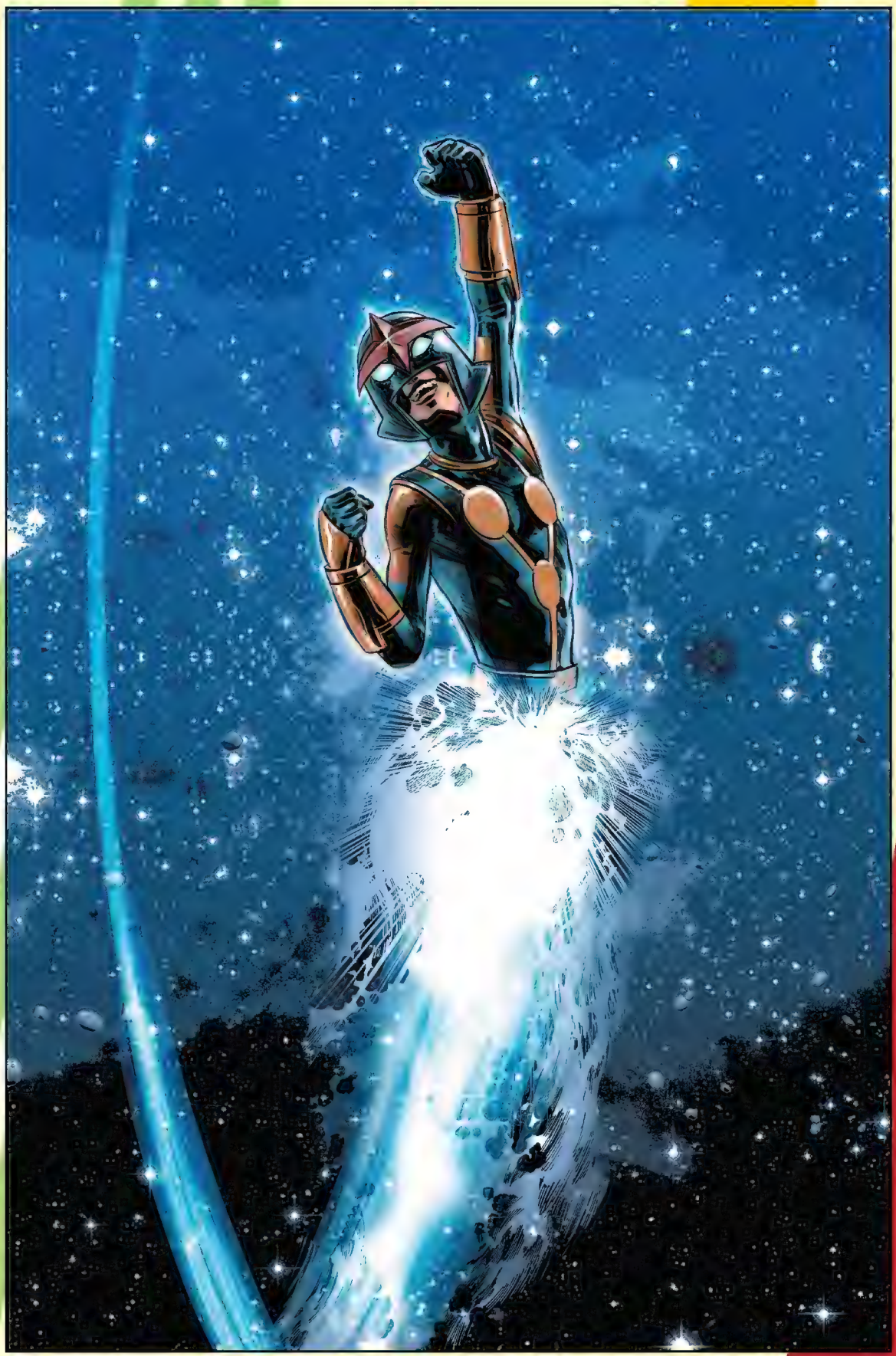
GREAT KING...
DEATH'S FURY MADE MANIFEST...
THANOS.
STRANGE YOUNGLINGS HAVE ARRIVED CLOSE BY. SHALL WE--
THEY ARE NOTHING.
PERHAPS, BUT THEY... THEY ARE NOT ALONE.
THANOS!

I AM WARBRINGER, ONE OF CHITAURI'S DEADLIEST WARRIORS!
YOU RULE THE GREATEST ARMY IN THE UNIVERSE BUT LET IT LIE IN WASTE!
YOU BRING SHAME TO MY PEOPLE!
OH, GREAT... WE SHOWED UP JUST IN TIME TO WATCH THESE TWO PSYCHOS BLOW EACH OTHER UP.
YOU THINK YOU CAN DESTROY ME AND SET THEM FREE?
NO.
TO FIGHT YOU IS TO DIE IN AN INSTANT.
GO ON...

THE CHITAURI WERE ONCE MASTERS, AND NOW THEY ARE SLAVES!
I CANNOT ABIDE THIS HUMILIATION...
...SO I WILL DESTROY THE CHITAURI AND WIPE THIS STAIN FROM OUR HISTORY!
HMPH.
DO AS YOU WILL. SACRIFICE THEM TO MISTRESS DEATH.
I CARE NOT.
HE...HE'S GOING TO KILL THEM ALL?
THAT'S WHAT HE SAID.

...I WILL PURGE CHITAURI PRIME!
KSHAK
YOU REALLY ARE THE MAD TITAN...
VERY WELL...
THE CHITAURI MUST DEFEND THEMSELVES.
WE WILL NOT.
NOT UNLESS ORDERED TO BY OUR KING.
NO, NO, NO...
IF WE DON'T GET OUT OF HERE, WE'RE ALL TOAST.
C'MON, NOVA. LET'S GO.
WE CAN'T LEAVE WARBRINGER ON THE LOOSE. WE CAN'T!
WHATEVER THE CHITAURI HAVE DONE IN THE PAST, RIGHT NOW THEY'RE JUST VICTIMS. WE CAN'T ABANDON THEM...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
SHE'S RIGHT. WARBRINGER WILL SLAUGHTER EVERYONE HERE JUST LIKE HE ANNIHILATED THAT OUTPOST.
WE'VE GOT TO STOP HIM.

BOOM
BOOM
BOOM
DIE, COWARDS!
AAAAGH!
YAAM
OKAY, TEAM...
...IT'S TIME TO SAVE THE BAD GUYS!



INFINITY COUNTDOWN: CHAMPIONS #1 VARIANT BY **MIKE DEODATO JR. & RAIN BEREDO**

INFINITY COUNTDOWN: CHAMPIONS 2

MY NAME'S SAM ALEXANDER, BUT WHEN I'M IN SUPER HERO MODE THEY CALL ME...
NOVA
I RECEIVED AN URGENT CALL FROM OUTER SPACE--THE NOVA CORPS LOOKING FOR HELP AGAINST AN ALIEN PSYCHO CALLED WARBRINGER.
MS. MARVEL
I FOUGHT HIM TWICE BEFORE.
VIV VISION
HE NEARLY KILLED ME.
WASP
BUT I HAD TO DO SOMETHING...
...AND MY FRIENDS WOULDN'T LET ME GO INTO DANGER ALONE.
IRONHEART
EVEN IF THAT MEANT FIGHTING ONE SET OF BAD GUYS TO SAVE ANOTHER FROM GENOCIDE.
SNOWGUARD

THAT'S HOW WE ENDED UP IN THE MIDDLE OF A **WAR.**

AND THAT'S HOW I ENDED UP LOSING ***EVERYTHING.***

NOVA!
YOU SHOULD HAVE CRAWLED AWAY WHILE YOU HAD THE CHANCE!
I'M NOT LEAVING 'TIL YOU'RE FINISHED!
FWH... AM
CRASH
NICE ONE, NOVA!
ZRAK
ZRAK
ZRAK
AHHH!

CAREFUL, SNOWGUARD!
ARE...
ZRAK
OW! OW!
ARE YOU OKAY?
ZRAK
I'M FINE! I'LL GET OVER IT!
JUST GET ME BACK INTO THE FIGHT!
OKAY, HERE GOES!
RAAAR!

AT THIS RATE, MY ARMOR'S GOING TO BE CRITICAL IN NO TIME...
...DO WE HAVE A PLAN?
WE NEED TO ELIMINATE AS MANY OF THEIR TRANSPORTATION SKIFFS AS POSSIBLE!
I'M TRYING, WASP, BUT THESE GUYS ARE DOING A NUMBER ON MY SHIELDS!
JUST DO THE BEST YOU CAN!
IF SOMETHING GOES WRONG, WE'LL FIGURE IT OUT!
UH...THIS WHOLE THING IS ONE BIG "GONE WRONG" SCENARIO!

YOU'RE INSANE! KILLING YOUR OWN PEOPLE...
YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND, BOY. YOU NEVER WILL.
WE WILL RAZE CHITAURI PRIME AND WIPE OUT THE WEAK, SO MY RACE'S LEGACY IS NO LONGER TARNISHED BY THANOS.
MY MISSION TO RESTORE OUR HONOR IS SACRED! I AM THE MIGHT OF THE CHITAURI ARMY!
MY LOYALISTS WILL NOT STOP AS LONG AS I COMMAND THEM!
"AS LONG AS I COMMAND THEM"...
...THAT'S IT!
VOOOOOOOOO
OOOOO
KROOM
SMASH
RAAAAAGH!
UHHHH!
YOUR DEFENSES CANNOT HOLD AGAINST MY MIGHT!
KRASH
CHAMPIONS, WE NEED TO CONCENTRATE ALL OUR ATTACKS ON WARBRINGER AND TAKE HIM DOWN!
IT'S THE ONLY WAY TO STOP THIS INVASION!

ZAAAP!!!
WARBRINGER'S FORCES HAVE SUPERIOR NUMBERS...
EVEN IF WE DEFEAT HIM, THEY WILL ALMOST CERTAINLY OVERWHELM US.
NO, THEY WON'T!
THE CHITAURI LOYAL TO THANOS STOOD STILL EVEN WHEN ATTACKED BECAUSE HE DIDN'T COMMAND THEM TO FIGHT.
THEY NEED A LEADER TELLING THEM WHAT TO DO! THEIR WHOLE CULTURE IS BUILT AROUND IT!
FIGHT ME!
OKAY, NOVA, IT'S WORTH A SHOT!
CRUNCH
URRR!
HOW DARE YOU!
GRAAA!
KEEP IT UP! HIT HIM WITH EVERYTHING YOU'VE GOT!

REPULSOR RAYS AT MAXIMUM.
KABOOOOM
UNNGH!
NNNNG!
CONCENTRATING FIRE.
I WILL NOT YIELD!
NNNNG!
CHAMPIONS, CLOSE YOUR EYES!
AAAAHHHHH!

YOU DISHONORABLE LITTLE COWARD!
YOU...YOU COULDN'T FACE ME ALONE!
YOU'RE RIGHT...
...BUT I DON'T HAVE TO...
...BECAUSE WE'RE A TEAM!
THOOOM
UHHHH--
CHITAURI LOYAL TO WARBRINGER!
YOUR LEADER HAS BEEN DEFEATED!

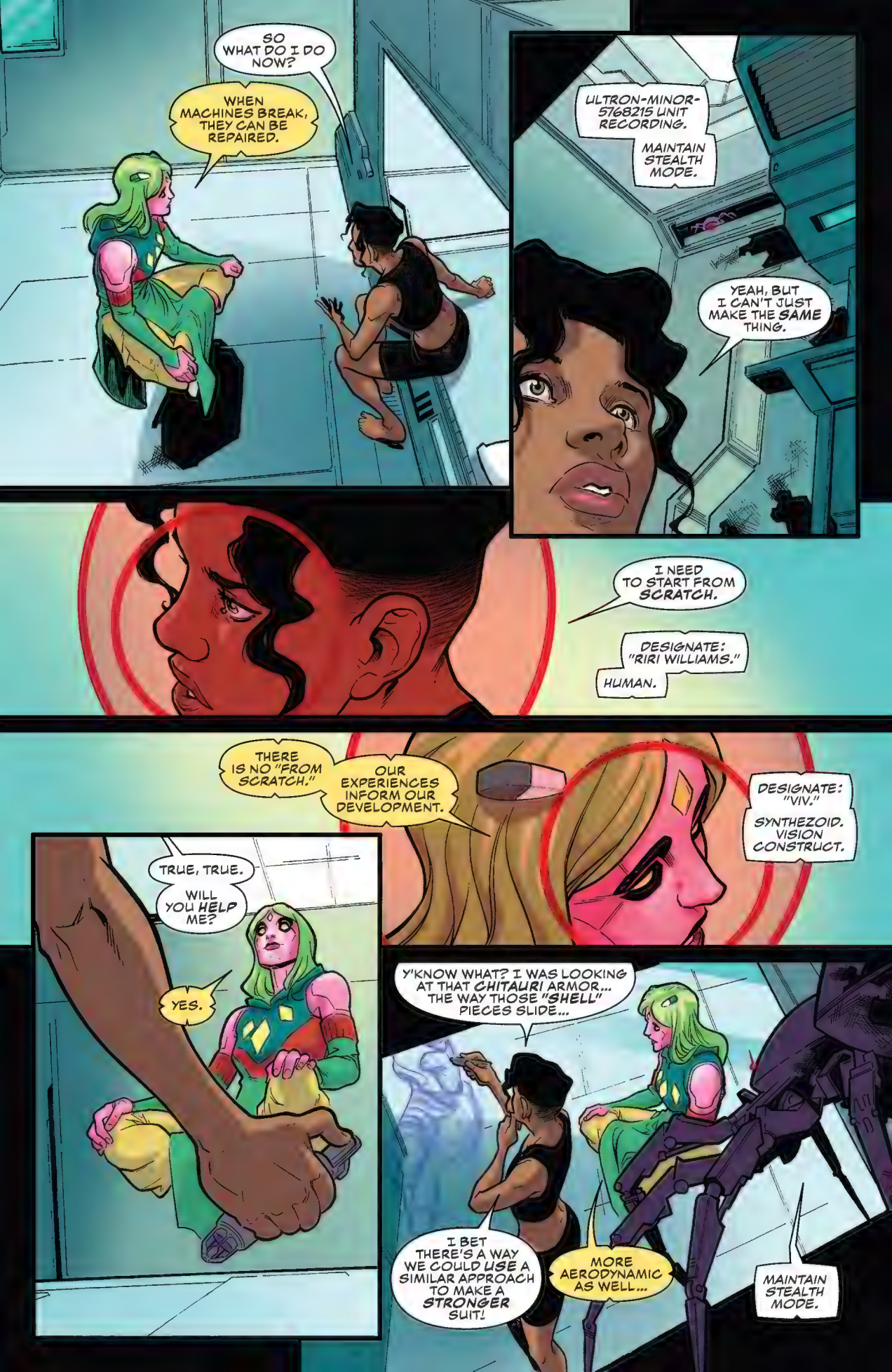
I COMMAND YOU TO STOP!
STOP FIGHTING! STOP KILLING!
HOSTILITIES HAVE CEASED, NOVA.
IT WORKED!
I DID IT. I REALLY DID IT!
MAN, I WISH DAD COULD SEE ME NOW.
HEH HEH HEH.
WELL DONE, CHILDREN.
YOU MUST BE SO PROUD OF YOURSELVES...
...YOU FOUGHT FOR THANOS AND WON.
WE SAVED YOUR SOLDIERS, PAL. THE LEAST YOU COULD DO IS SHOW SOME GRATITUDE.
WHO DO YOU THINK YOU ARE?!
COME CLOSER AND FIND OUT...

FINE, THEN! MAYBE I WILL!
RIRI, NO!
I AM THANOS.
AND YOU...
CREEEEAK
...ARE NOTHING.

I COULD KILL YOU IN AN INSTANT...
...BUT YOU HAVE PROVIDED ME WITH A MOMENT OF AMUSEMENT AND DEFEATED AN IRRITANT...
...SO YOU MAY LEAVE TO ENJOY WHATEVER PITIFUL LIFE SPAN STILL AWAITS YOU.

I FINALLY BEAT WARBRINGER.
WE SAVED THOUSANDS... MAYBE EVEN MILLIONS.
BUT IT ALL FELT HOLLOW.
THE CHITAURI WERE STILL ENSLAVED BY THANOS.
HE WAS STILL PLOTTING TO DESTROY THE UNIVERSE.
WE WERE INSIGNIFICANT TO HIM.
NOT EVEN A THREAT.

RIRI.
VIV, I... I DON'T WANT TO TALK RIGHT NOW.
I AM QUITE CAPABLE OF STAYING SILENT WHILE PROVIDING SUPPORT THROUGH GENERAL PROXIMITY.
...OKAY.
FOR A SEC THERE, I THOUGHT I WAS GONNA DIE.
THE PROBABILITY DID SEEM HIGH, BUT I AM GLAD YOU DID NOT.
YEAH?
YES.
I WORKED MY BUTT OFF TO BUILD MY ARMOR AND, IN THE END, IT DIDN'T EVEN MATTER... I COULDN'T DO ANYTHING.
INCORRECT.
YOUR CAPABILITIES ENABLED US TO TRACK WARBRINGER AND SAVE MANY LIVES.
YOU ARE NEEDED, RIRI WILLIAMS.
...THANKS.


SO WHAT DO I DO NOW?
WHEN MACHINES BREAK, THEY CAN BE REPAIRED.
ULTRON-MINOR-5768215 UNIT RECORDING.
MAINTAIN STEALTH MODE.
YEAH, BUT I CAN'T JUST MAKE THE SAME THING.
I NEED TO START FROM SCRATCH.
DESIGNATE: "RIRI WILLIAMS." HUMAN.
THERE IS NO "FROM SCRATCH."
OUR EXPERIENCES INFORM OUR DEVELOPMENT.
DESIGNATE: "VIV." SYNTHEZOID. VISION CONSTRUCT.
TRUE, TRUE.
WILL YOU HELP ME?
YES.
Y'KNOW WHAT? I WAS LOOKING AT THAT CHITAURI ARMOR... THE WAY THOSE "SHELL" PIECES SLIDE...
I BET THERE'S A WAY WE COULD USE A SIMILAR APPROACH TO MAKE A STRONGER SUIT!
MORE AERODYNAMIC AS WELL...
MAINTAIN STEALTH MODE.

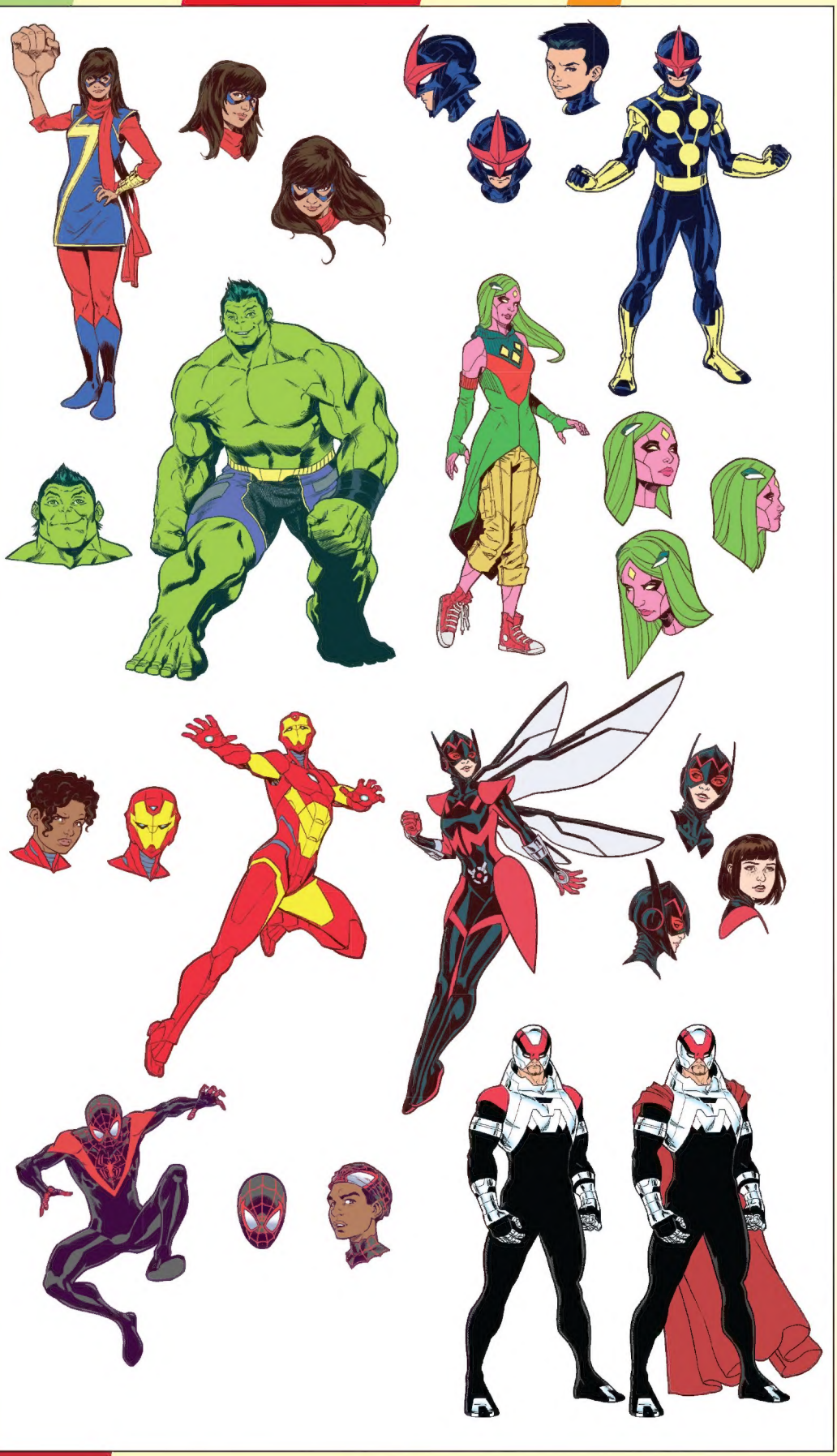
I CAN'T BELIEVE IT!
NOVA OUTPOST WHEELER-DELTA.
A BUNCH OF KIDS TOOK DOWN WARBRINGER!
PARDON ME, MR. ADSIT, BUT WE'RE NOT KIDS. I'M TAKING DRIVING LESSONS.
MIND-BLOWING...
THANKS... I THINK.
YOU GUYS ARE JUST LUCKY YOU INTERCEPTED HIM WHEN YOU DID. YOU WERE CLOSE ENOUGH TO CHITAURI PRIME THAT YOU COULD'VE BEEN SPOTTED BY THANOS.
UH... SO, ABOUT THAT--
HEH HEH, YEAH! THANOS IS VERY SCARY, SO IT'S A GOOD THING WE AVOIDED HIM COMPLETELY...
I WISH I COULD OFFER YOU A REWARD, BUT OUR RESOURCES ARE TAPPED OUT RIGHT NOW. EVERY AVAILABLE NOVA CORPS MEMBER IS DOING DAMAGE CONTROL ACROSS THE GALAXY.
RIGHT! OF COURSE...
WE'D HELP MORE IF WE COULD, BUT WE REALLY SHOULD BE GETTING BACK TO EARTH.
SPEAKING OF NOVA UNITS, WHERE'S YOURS?
I RECEIVED A MESSAGE FROM "NOVA SAM" TELLING ME YOU GUYS WERE HUNTING WARBRINGER. SO... WHERE'S HE NOW?
HE, UH... WELL...
HE WASN'T FEELING WELL AND HAD TO GO.

THAT'S ODD.
ACCORDING TO MY PROXIMITY TRACKER, THERE'S AN OLD BLACK NOVA HELMET QUITE CLOSE BY...
BWEEEP BWEEEP BWEEEP
AHHH!
THIS THING'S GONE CRAZY! MAKE IT STOP!
SORRY ABOUT THAT. LEMME FIX IT FOR YOU, KID.
I'M NOT A KID.
BWEEEP BWEEEP BWEEEP
THERE ARE TWO MORE CREW MEMBERS ABOARD YOUR VESSEL?
YEAH.
OKAY... JUST CALIBRATING SOME SETTINGS HERE...
UH...FOR WHAT?
OUR MATTER TRANSFER UNIT USES A LOT OF ENERGY BUT, GIVEN ALL YOU'VE DONE FOR US BY STOPPING WARBRINGER, THE LEAST WE CAN DO IS GET YOU HOME QUICK AND SAFE.
BWIP

HEY!
THAT'S MY HELMET!
WRONG.
THIS HELMET IS PROPERTY OF THE NOVA CORPS.
YOU'RE NOT AUTHORIZED TO POSSESS IT AND HAVE NOT RECEIVED PROPER TRAINING AND CERTIFICATION.
BYE!
FWAAASH

NO, NO, NO...
NOOOOO!
NOVA NO MORE, AMADEUS' BIG CHANGE, RIRI'S NEW ARMOR AND THE MACABRE MAN-THING! TRUST US, TRUE BELIEVERS, YOU DON'T WANT TO MISS CHAMPIONS!

CHARACTER DESIGNS BY **SEAN IZAAKSE**



CHARACTER DESIGNS BY **SEAN IZAAKSE**

"Great characters, beautiful art, amazing action scenes and sparkling dialogue."
– Comic Watch

A FRESH ERA BEGINS AS

IRONHEART AND THE UNSTOPPABLE WASP

JOIN THE CHAMPIONS!

THE TEAM HAS GROWN, but the mission stays the same – fight to make the world a better place for all! But the super villain known as the Master has plans too: He's determined to save Earth from itself! And the Champions are going to…help?! But the Champions are on a collision course with Alpha Flight! Could Ms. Marvel have to battle her idol, Captain Marvel? And who is the new hero Snowguard? Plus: Nova no more?! And the events of Infinity Countdown are felt as the battle for the Power Stone sends the Champions into outer space, where they'll fight for – Thanos! Strange allegiances and sacrifices will be made…and one young hero is about to lose everything.

COLLECTING ***CHAMPIONS (2016) #19-21*** AND ***INFINITY COUNTDOWN: CHAMPIONS #1-2*** – BY JIM ZUB, SEAN IZAAKSE, EMILIO LAISO, MARCIO MENYZ AND ANDY TROY.

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